

ONME NEWS

Central Valley's Urban News & Current Affairs Spot

Print Edition – Monday, June 19, 2017

Issue #009

Monthly News Post



Juneteenth weekend proves to be a scorching celebration

June 19, 2017 | ONME Newswire



FRESNO, CA--Starting with a parade from Fresno and C streets, Fresno citizens gathered in the FoodMaxx parking lot in honor of Juneteenth, which symbolizes the official freedom of slaves throughout worldwide.



The annual tradition, according to <http://www.Juneteenth.com>, is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863.



[\(Click Pix below to review full TV guide.\)](#)

From age 3 to 73, Fresno African-Americans and participating citizens marched approximately two and half miles to the Juneteenth celebration held at Bud Gaston Middle School under soaring temperatures of 100 degrees or more to symbolize the inclement weather slaves of all ages, endured barefoot on their march to freedom.

Excerpts from 2017 Fresno Juneteenth will be featured on the ONME Network starting Friday, June 23rd listed under "special events" in the TV guide from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM & 4:00 AM-6:00 AM daily. Download the FREE ONME app to watch on your mobile device: www.app.onmetv.com

ONME TV Guide

The ONME Network
Today May 15 - 21, 2017

	Mon 5/15	Tue 5/16	Wed 5/17	Thu 5/18	Fri 5/19	Sat 5/20	Sun 5/21
12am	12-2 VBTalk Ra VBTalk Rebroad Radio cast						
1am							
2am	2-4 Soul Cooking						
3am							
4am	4-6 Special Event: FMBCC, Binion, Soul Food Fest & BAPAC	4-6 Special Event: FMBCC, Binion, Soul Food Fest & BAPAC	4-6 Special Event: FMBCC, Binion, Soul Food Fest & BAPAC	4-6 Special Event: FMBCC, Binion, Soul Food Fest & BAPAC	4-6 Special Event: FMBCC, Binion, Soul Food Fest & BAPAC	4-6 Special Event: FMBCC, Binion, Soul Food Fest & BAPAC	4-6 Special Event: FMBCC, Binion, Soul Food Fest & BAPAC
5am							
6am	6-8 VBTalk Radio Rebroadcast						
7am							
8am	8-9 Roland Martin						
9am	9-11 Movie - Documentary: Whited Out 4: Lost & Found the 12 Tribes	9-11 Movie - Documentary: Whited Out 4: Lost & Found the 12 Tribes	9-11 Movie - Documentary: Whited Out 4: Lost & Found the 12 Tribes	9-11 Movie - Documentary: Whited Out 4: Lost & Found the 12 Tribes	9-11 Movie - Documentary: Whited Out 4: Lost & Found the 12 Tribes	9-11 Movie - Documentary: Whited Out 4: Lost & Found the 12 Tribes	9-11 Movie - Documentary: Whited Out 4: Lost & Found the 12 Tribes
10am							
11am	11-12p ONME Sunday Mornings -						
12pm	12p-2p VBTalk Radio Rebroadcast						
1pm							
2pm	2p-4p Soul Cooking						
3pm							
4pm	4p-6p						

3 DAY WATERING

WISDOM

"Knowing your designated watering days and sticking to your schedule helps save water for everyone!"

THREE-DAY WATERING SCHEDULE
June 1 - August 31, 2017

ODD Numbered Addresses:
(Ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)

Tuesdays, Thursdays and/or Saturdays

EVEN Numbered Addresses:
(Ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8)

Wednesdays, Fridays and/or Sundays

NO WATERING MONDAYS OR BETWEEN 9AM AND 6PM

From the City of **FRESNO**

For help with your timer, call 621-5480 or email waterconservation@fresno.gov.

Critics claim proposed new tax agency will place too much power in governor's hands

June 16, 2017 | [By Manny Otiko CBM](#)



SACRAMENTO, CA --A plan to radically reshape the State Board of Equalization (BOE) has both Democrats and Republicans up in arms. Plans for the changes are contained in SB 86. According to the legislation, Democrats plan to create a new tax body that would be under the Governor's Office.

The legislation reads, "This bill would establish, in the Government Operations Agency, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and would place the department under the control of a director appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill would also authorize the Governor to appoint a chief deputy director and a chief counsel."

According to the Sacramento Bee, tax disputes would be settled by administrative judges, not board members of the BOE, who are elected.

The move was motivated by a March audit which revealed that the BOE couldn't account for millions of dollars and also found that some board members were redirecting state employees to work on their own projects.

However, some Democrats and Republicans believe this a power grab by the Governor's Office and some other Democrats.

George Runner, vice chair of the BOE, said the new law would only add another layer of government bureaucracy.

"This last-minute budget power grab would strip California taxpayers of their right to bring their tax appeals before their elected peers. In its place the bill would establish yet another unelected and costly tax bureaucracy," said Runner, a Republican. "It's a sad but true reality: the only real alternative to an elected official is an unelected state worker. The proposed changes go far beyond issues identified in recent audits, nearly all of which have been addressed and corrected by the Board."

Jerome E. Horton, a BOE board member, said the proposed changes would end up costing more money in the long run.

"This measure adds an additional layer of bureaucracy and will eventually cost taxpayers billions for separate computer systems, administration, lawyers and facilities. This bill will also place minorities and small business at a serious disadvantage in their appeals of taxation," said Horton, a Democrat. "It definitely requires additional thought, deliberation, and study."

The bill is being reviewed by the Assembly and is currently with the budget committee.

JOIN US JUNE 23

Silicon Valley leaders meet with California Legislators and renew commitment to diversity

June 15, 2017 | [ONME News Wire](#)



Sacramento (CA) – In a meeting with California State Legislators, technology industry leaders vowed to renew their commitment to find diverse technical talent at all levels, from company boards to specialized technical roles. Legislators representing the California Legislative Black Caucus, California Latino Legislative Caucus, California Legislative Women’s Caucus, and the California Asian Pacific Islander Caucus met with the decision-making executives to discuss current diversity efforts in the Silicon Valley.

“It is imperative that diversity be a priority starting at the very top of every company in Silicon Valley

and be woven into the fabric of every organization to create a welcoming environment for all,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden (AD – 41), Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

Organized by TechNet and hosted by PayPal, summit attendees included top executives representing Uber, Lyft, General Motors, ChargePoint, SunRun, Bloom Energy, Instacart, AirBnB, and tech giants Google and Apple. All in attendance agreed to be more transparent in their efforts and to work with the Legislature in diversifying their boards. The summit not only allowed for communication from industry to the legislature, but assisted in the exchange of ideas amongst the technology companies.

“Our great state is blessed with an increasingly diverse and experienced workforce - that is a key reason why California is so attractive to companies in all industries – particularly the high tech community.” said California Latino Legislative Caucus Chair, Senator Ben Hueso (SD – 40). “As has always been the case, the Latino Caucus will work collaboratively with all policy makers and business leaders to enhance employee diversity through common sense solutions.”

“The technology industry must address the lack of women—especially women of color—at every level



A tribute to
Jack Kelley
and the
African-American Police Officers
of the Central Valley

The African American Historical and Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley is celebrating 25 years as the one-of-a-kind African-American pictorial gallery in the Central Valley.

Join us for the opening reception as we recognize the contributions, sacrifices and services made by African- American police and sheriffs officers during the last 25 years through an extensive pictorial exhibit.

Saturday, July 8, 2017
4:00 PM – 6:00PM
 1857 Fulton St., Fresno, CA 93721

Pictorial Exhibit: June 26th - July 29th

Reception Donation: \$60 AAHCMSJV Membership



For more information please contact
 the African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of SJV:
 (559)544-1857 or
 Email: aahcmsjv@gmail.com

by being leaders in creating opportunities that promote gender equality,” said Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (AD – 58), Chair of the California Legislative Women’s Caucus. “Diversity is good for business and the talent is here now if space is created and women’s contributions are fostered.”

"Silicon Valley and our tech industry have work to do when it comes to diversity," said Assemblymember Laura Friedman (AD – 43). "And it goes beyond the obvious lack of women and some minorities in the workforce and the board rooms. We need content with roles that reflect reality and encourage opportunities, rather than reinforcing tired and oppressive stereotypes."

"We need our workforce to be more reflective of all Californians," said Assemblymember Rob Bonta (AD – 18) Chair of the API Legislative Caucus. "It's the right thing to do and it's also good business. Studies have shown that companies with racial and ethnic diversity, as well as better female representation in leadership, achieve higher revenue, more profitability, and higher market values."

PayPal proudly spoke of their new diversity department stating that they want to focus on creating an inclusive culture both in their Silicon Valley office and across the world. Other companies spoke of pipeline programs such as AirBnB’s “AirBnB Connect,” intended to improve pathways to careers in engineering and data science for people from underrepresented backgrounds seeking to transition to a career in tech. General Motors’ “Take Two” program brings in women who were absent from the workforce to raise families and helps them to re-enter through state of the art training and education opportunities.

The Caucuses look forward to working with tech industry leaders to increase the diversity and inclusion efforts in Silicon Valley.

The ONME Network

Rating: ★★★★★ 5.0 (5)
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Single-payer health bill passes Senate but critics question how to fund it

June 14, 2017 | [By Manny Otiko - CBM](#)



SACRAMENTO, CA -- California has long been a national leader in innovation, and if Senate Bill 562 (which seeks to establish a Medicare-for-all system) passes, the state could change the direction of health care in the nation.

SB 562 is sponsored by the California Nurses Association (CNA.) According to a CNA press release, the primary goal of the new single-payer system is to save money and provide more efficient health care.

According to a study by University of Massachusetts Amherst researchers, a single-payer system could reduce California's health care spending by 18 percent.

The CNA also argues SB 562 would benefit businesses who currently carry the burden for workers' health care premiums. CNA says small businesses could see a 22 percent reduction in payroll costs, while medium-sized businesses could see a 13 percent reduction.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst study also projects that a single-payer system would cost the state more than \$330 billion. (However, a legislative

analysis puts the figure at \$400 billion.) This would be funded by two 2.3 percent taxes on gross receipts and sales.

SB 562, introduced by State Sens. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) and Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego,) passed the Senate and is now with the Assembly. Lara also extolled the money that could be saved by implementing a single-payer health care system, which would also cover undocumented immigrants.

"More Californians receive their health insurance through public programs like Medicare and Medicaid than from any insurance company. These programs have low administrative costs and have high patient satisfaction. We have shown that California can do this," said Lara. However, there are still several concerns and questions that have not been answered. For example, what happens to the private health care industry?

Deborah Burger, president of the CNA, said a single-payer system would effectively kill the private insurance industry. Burger said nurses, who are on the front lines of health care, see the effects of the private health care system every day. Patients have their care rationed and can't afford premiums or medications, she said.

"More and more people are declaring bankruptcy from medical bills," Burger said. The California Medical Association (CMA,) a state organization that represents doctors, has offered limited support for SB 562.

"CMA has a policy supporting a single payer system

provided it meets certain benchmarks -- the most important of which is demonstrating that the legislation would make appropriate investments in health care infrastructure, including providers for California's patients," said Joanne Adams, associate director of communications at the CMA. "Given what we've seen with the proposed raiding of tobacco tax funds we're not confident that the state is currently prepared to commit sufficient investments towards meaningful access to care."

Senate Republicans are also skeptical of the bill. State Sen. Janet Nguyen (R-Garden Grove) was concerned about the cost and how it would be funded. "SB 562 would cost California taxpayers \$400 billion, more than twice the size of the entire state budget. It makes sweeping promises to provide health care for every Californian but has no funding plan to pay for it and no guarantees of greater access for consumers. It is a false promise to Californians," said Nguyen.

Sen. Tom Berryhill, (R-Twain Harte,) was also extremely critical of SB 562. He gave a lengthy speech in the Senate outlining his problems with the bill. According to Berryhill, the Democrats have not offered a clear plan for funding their single-payer health care system.

"If we cut every single program and expense from the state budget and redirected that money to this bill, SB-562, we wouldn't even cover half of the estimated \$400-billion price tag," said Berryhill.

"Obviously, the state would have to generate a lot of new revenue from somewhere, but the bill has not identified any concrete sources of revenue." Berryhill

also cited the VA, the UC system and the high-speed rail project as other examples of poorly financed and run government programs. "I'm just worried that single-payer would suffer the same fate as these other projects," said Berryhill. Nguyen said the GOP favors improving healthcare by fixing Medi-Cal and also improving access to clinics that serve rural and low-income areas. "We should begin by working to improve access for the 14 million people on Medi-Cal, which is the state's current government run program.

SB 562 is currently being reviewed by the State Assembly. If they don't add any amendments, it goes back to the Senate and onto Gov. Jerry Brown's office. Brown has publicly expressed skepticism about the bill, especially about how to pay for it.

Juneteenth Celebration at Negro Bar an official California state park

June 14, 2017 | [CBM Newswire](#)



SACRAMENTO, CA -- In June many African American's celebrate Juneteenth, the celebration of the last state in the union to receive word that slavery ended in 1865.

Community organizer Michael Harris hosted a Juneteenth celebration at Negro Bar, a California State Park located within the city of Folsom in the county of Sacramento.

Harris said he picked this location to celebrate the history of the old mining site and contributions African American's played during the gold rush area.

"Together, we celebrate Juneteenth as we continue to identify, document, preserve and share the authentic contributions by people of African ancestry 1840-1875 along the American River Parkway," said Harris.

The Negro Bar Historic State Park is poised to tell the story of people of African Ancestry's significant contributions along the American River Parkway, part of an ongoing effort to expand inclusion and create a California African American Heritage Commission.

"Our 2017 Folsom Juneteenth, honors the amazing contributions and sacrifice by US Colored Troops during the US Civil War and local unknown 'hidden figures' in our ongoing journey towards freedom," said Harris.

California has banned disposable plastic bags, straws could be next on the list

June 13, 2017 | [Manny Otiko](#)

California has a reputation as a green state on the cutting-edge of environmental laws. State Bill 270 banned the use of disposable plastic bags, changing the way Californians shop, and disposable straws could be next on the chopping block.



The Berkeley City Council has launched an initiative to ban the use of plastic straws in commercial establishments in their city. The ban was proposed by council members Ben Bartlett, Susan Wengraf and Sophie Hahn.

According to a news release, the primary goal of the initiative is to cut down on waste. American consumers go through about 500 million plastic straws every year, but those straws don't disappear. They end up in landfills and oceans. Plastic straws also leak chemicals back into the ground and the water system.

Bartlett said banning plastic straws would benefit future generations.

"We should be thinking of any increased costs as investments in our futures and our children's futures. In order to preserve the health of our planet, we have no choice but to change our policies and habits," said Bartlett.

About ONME News Print Edition:

The ONME News Print Edition is a monthly culmination of the online news stories printed daily throughout the month.

Keep up-to-date with news from throughout the Valley: www.onmenews.com.

If you are a news outlet who would like to be listed and included as one of our media partners, please send an email: news@myonme.com

NOTE: Links are active in the PDF online version.

24th Annual African American High School Recognition Ceremony provides students with determination and encouragement

June 9, 2017 | [ONME News Wire](#)



FRESNO, CA--271 African-American High School students from throughout the Central Valley participated in the 24th Annual African American High School Recognition Ceremony hosted by the the San Joaquin Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The recognition ceremony held at the Save Mart Center this past Sunday featured speaker Dr. Tanya A. Fisher, superintendent of Selma Unified School District, and an array of scholarship presentations from different organizations and businesses from throughout the Valley.

Students and family members can currently download the 1,500 pictures from the event for free by [clicking on the provided link](#), provided by AMPTV.

Watch the ceremony starting this Monday on the ONME Network listed under “Special Events” on the online ONME TV guide from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM & 4:00 AM-6:00 AM daily. Or watch it on demand at AMPTV’s Amazon Prime Channel starting Monday, June 12th.

California legislators to meet with tech giants to increase diversity

June 8, 2017 | [CBM Newswire](#)



Sacramento (CA) – The California Legislative Black Caucus, California Latino Legislative Caucus, California Legislative Women’s Caucus, and California Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, have expressed strong concern over the technology industry’s lack of diversity in their board, management, and technical roles. Although a few companies have made attempts to address the lack of diversity in Silicon Valley, the efforts currently put forth in the industry leave much to be desired.

“It is imperative that diversity be a priority starting at the very top of every company in Silicon Valley and be woven into the fabric of every organization to create a welcoming environment for all,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden (AD-41), Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus who is spearheading this endeavor.

This venture has come to the forefront upon the heels of multiple incidents concerning diversity at Apple, including the article that was published in May of 2016 entitled, Apple’s Mostly White Board Says a Call for Diversity Is “Unduly Burdensome and Not Necessary.” From Apple’s most recent self-reporting, only 9 percent of all Apple employees are African American. Furthermore, the percentage of African Americans in tech roles is 8 percent while those in leadership is 3 percent. The numbers for Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders, and women working at Apple are equally appalling.

Given the nature of the tech industry, data is a big deal. The diversity and inclusion data is disturbing as the leadership and workforce of the technology industry do not reflect the diversity of California or the customers that it relies upon for success. These numbers are not unique to Apple, but are consistent, if not more appalling, amongst the majority of the tech companies in Silicon Valley.

While there are many concerns with the lack of diversity within the tech industry, there are five key issues the Caucuses would like to see addressed:

1. Close the gender and ethnic pay gap.
2. Improve employment and outreach opportunities.
3. Increase board diversity.
4. Create a pipeline for diverse technical talent and upward mobility.
5. Retain diverse talent with the development of a welcoming company culture.

Members of the California State Legislature who will be joining Assemblymember Holden at this meeting include Senator Ben Hueso (SD-40), Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus; Assemblymember Rob Bonta (AD-18), Chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander Caucus; and Assemblymember Laura Friedman (AD-43), Member of the California Legislative Women's Caucus.

Organized by TechNet and hosted by PayPal, this summit will have top executives representing Uber, Lyft, General Motors, ChargePoint, SunRun, Bloom Energy, Instacart, along with the tech giants Google and Apple.

The Caucuses hope to work with the tech industry leaders in an effort to increase the diversity and inclusion efforts in Silicon Valley and will be proposing outreach programs that would significantly benefit all Californians, specifically those underrepresented in the industry. There is high anticipation for the reaffirmation of the tech giants'

positions on diversity, inclusion, and retention of diverse talent through the deliberate actions taken on these fronts to improve the culture.

The first African-American Force Master Chief in the history of the United States Navy has passed away.

June 7, 2017 | [ONME Newswire](#)



SAN DIEGO, CA --Master Chief Othan 'Nate' Mondy, Region 1 Commander, NABVETS, Inc., died Monday May 29, 2017, in Louisiana.

Master Chief Mondy served as Command Master Chief of the USS Kitty Hawk and was the 1st Force Master Chief to visit the bottom of the world. Retiring in 1992, after 32 years of service to the United States Navy Master Chief Mondy has received numerous Navy commendations, awards, and recognitions.

On February 4, 2012, Master Chief Mondy was installed as the Commander of the California State Command Council.

‘N’ Sufficient Response: Black parents in Riverside question local school's actions to students' sharing racial slur online

June 5, 2017 | [By McKenzie Jackson/CBM](#)



Editor's note: CBM did not use the student's name that has been posted to social media in this story.

RIVERSIDE, CA--Parents and students at a Riverside, CA high school are outraged over how an area school handled a student's post on

social media. The post displayed another student posing next to a school whiteboard spelling the N-word in what appears to be the game Hangman.

The mother of Hillcrest High School student Danielle Jones in the Alvord Unified School District is upset with the post and how school administration blamed her daughter for reposting the Snapchat photo showing a student proudly displaying the racial slur. Jones said that her classmate is the girl in the photo, both are members of Hillcrest's 2017 graduation class and Jones said she was also a member of the school's Associated Student Body (ASB).

Jones' mother, Tocinda, said parents should have been notified of the Hangman picture when the incident first to place in March 2017 and believes her daughter's classmate should have faced more punishment than what they heard she received. The

mom also wonders why the school waited until the end of the school year to further discipline the students involved.

Jones and her friends said the school gave the girl in the photo a slap on the wrist by taking away her ASB activities events that were concluded for the year and removing her from the May 31 graduation speaker's list. Jones said the punishment did not go into effect until after her Twitter post displaying the former Hillcrest student grinning next to the inflammatory word was shared online.

"We expected more," Jones said. "We expect them to protect our kids from attacks like this. It's not ok. I think they should have notified the parents. They did none of that."

Alvord USD spokesperson Cynthia Shipley wrote in an email on May 31 that the school district does not tolerate racial discrimination.

"Any discriminatory actions on campus will be treated extremely seriously, and allegations of discriminatory remarks will be fully investigated and addressed," she stated. Alluding to the Hangman photo, Shipley wrote, "school officials have investigated and addressed the issue. However, due to student privacy rights, the district cannot disclose what measures were taken."

Jones said the photo was "snapped" to social media in March. The teenager said some of her friends saw the image and were offended. They took a screenshot and forwarded it to her. Jones, who was a part of the valedictorian court and is set to attend New York University on a full scholarship next fall, felt compelled to address the issue with the school's administration.

The student's March 24 email to school leaders read: "It's a shame you let [a] clearly racist student be a leader of your student body. I hope something is actually done this time as opposed to actions taken against students practicing hate speech in the past. Racism at any level should not be tolerated."

Jones said her email was never answered.

She said her father, Kevin Jones, was extremely upset when he learned that school officials seemed to investigate his daughter—rather than investigate the photo—and didn't respond to her message because they didn't know who sent it.

"They were investigating who sent the email instead of who was in the picture," he said.

Jones' parents were not aware of the incident until after a school administrator asked their daughter to take down her post of the picture on Twitter. Jones said she refused to take down her post since she was not informed of the schools official's actions.

As of June 1, another Twitter user, claravelarde13, May 27 post of the Hangman photo that identified the students was still making the rounds on the social media site.

Jones' dad said he attempted to setup a meeting with school officials after his daughter was confronted about her Twitter post but became frustrated that school officials were not more accommodating to meeting immediately after his request.

The Hillcrest principal Dr. Sherri Kemp emailed Kevin Jones on May 24, "I can assure you that actions were taken to address this issue when the email was sent, as were further actions taken today.

However, Jones was also annoyed that school officials would never answer his question to why parents weren't notified. His wife said the school's actions are not acceptable.

"I think they owe us some sort of apology and definitely need to make changes in the school so this doesn't happen to other kids," she said.

Amazon announces new fulfillment center in Fresno

June 2, 2017 | [ONME Newswire](#)

Amazon will continue its growth in Central Valley and create 1,500 new full-time jobs in Fresno



amazonfulfillment

FRESNO, CA – Amazon.com, Inc. (NASDAQ: AMZN) today announced plans to open its first fulfillment center in Fresno. This will be Amazon's fifth fulfillment center in California's Central Valley, with three operating fulfillment centers located in Tracy and Patterson, and a fourth facility under construction in Sacramento.

Other Amazon California customer fulfillment facilities are located in San Bernardino, Redlands, Moreno Valley, Rialto, Eastvale and Newark. Additionally, there are more than 460,000 authors, sellers, and developers in California growing their businesses and reaching new customers via Amazon products and services.

"We are very excited to expand our network into Fresno and throughout the San Joaquin Valley as a region," said Akash Chauhan, Amazon's Vice President of North American Operations. "There are several factors we consider when deciding on where to place a new fulfillment center. Most importantly, we look to see where we can improve Prime benefits with faster shipping speeds for customers and where there is a dedicated workforce that can raise the bar of our operational excellence. We know we'll find talent in abundance in Fresno to join the Amazon team."

Amazon employees at the 855,000-square-foot fulfillment center will specialize in handling smaller-sized items such as books, electronic devices and children’s toys.

Mayor Lee Brand said, “On behalf of the people of the City of Fresno, it is my pleasure to welcome Amazon to our wonderful city. We look forward to their fulfillment team joining our rapidly growing business community and building on the positive momentum that is energizing our economy. Amazon will not only provide quality jobs, they’ll also bring a tradition of volunteering and partnering with local small businesses that are vital to our overall success. We are thankful for the job opportunities Amazon will offer to our residents and we will embrace Amazon and make them part of the fabric of our great city.”

“In just five years, Amazon has become one of the fastest-growing and largest employers in the Central Valley, providing thousands of Californians with good-paying jobs,” said Panorea Avdis, Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). “Whether it’s the California Competes Tax Credit program, site selection or permitting assistance, GO-Biz partners with companies to help them expand and grow their operations. Thanks in part to a partnership with the state, Amazon continues to be a strong driver of job creation and positive economic impact, and we are thrilled to see them expand into Fresno and the lower Central Valley.”

Full-time employees at Amazon receive competitive hourly wages and a comprehensive benefits package, including healthcare, 401(k) and company stock awards starting on day one. Amazon also offers regular full-time employees maternity and parental leave benefits and access to innovative programs like Career Choice, where it will pre-pay up to 95 percent of tuition for courses related to in-demand fields, regardless of whether the skills are relevant to a career at Amazon. Since the program’s launch, more than 9,000 employees are pursuing degrees in game design and visual communications, nursing, IT programming and radiology, to name a few.

To learn more about working at an Amazon fulfillment center, visit www.AmazonDelivers.Jobs.

The project is being developed by Dermody Properties and Seefried Industrial Properties.

About Amazon

Amazon is guided by four principles: customer obsession rather than competitor focus, passion for invention, commitment to operational excellence, and long-term thinking. Customer reviews, 1-Click shopping, personalized recommendations, Prime, Fulfillment by Amazon, AWS, Kindle Direct Publishing, Kindle, Fire tablets, Fire TV, Amazon Echo, and Alexa are some of the products and services pioneered by Amazon. For more information, visit www.amazon.com/about and follow @AmazonNews.

CA's Hidden Secret: It's Not So Progressive When It Come's To Police Accountability

May 25, 2017 | [CBM Newswire](#)



SACRAMENTO, CA --Rev. Al Sharpton, Civil Rights leader, and leadership of his organization National Action Network, Western Region President Rev. K.W. Tullos and President, Rev. Shane Harris, San Diego chapter took to the State Capitol to urge Assemblymember Lorena Gonzales-Fletcher (D-San Diego) head of the Assembly Appropriations and her colleagues to support and pass out of committee

AB 284 authored by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento).

The bill requires the Department of Justice to create an independent review unit which will be known as the Statewide Officer-Involved Shootings Investigation Team to investigate officer-involved shootings.

According to Sharpton, his representatives and the author of the bill "For far too long there has been distrust surrounding police shooting and the decisions by local D.A.'s that work in close cooperation with police officers."

The bill has some opposition mainly law enforcement organizations:

California State Sheriffs' Association
California Statewide Law Enforcement Association
Fraternal Order of Police
Long Beach Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association

Upon request of a local law enforcement agency or district attorney, the Team will investigate, gather facts and provide a recommendation to the entity requesting the review.

According to a Sacramento Bee story published July 2016, police officers killed someone, on average, about once every three days during the last decade. About four police officers, on average, were killed in homicides on the job each year over the same period.

In a press conference held outside of the state house, Sharpton said, " It is the height of an irony to me, that California has the image of progressivism, but not up to par with other states like New York, like Wisconsin, like other states who've already moved towards (independent) prosecutors."

The bill will be up for a full committee vote this Friday, May 26, 2017.

Group of Black Men Rally to Support Students After Moreno Valley Teacher Makes Offensive Comment

May 25, 2017 | [By Manny Otiko CBM](#)



Moreno Valley, CA --After a teacher at a Moreno Valley Elementary School allegedly referred to a student as a slave, a local group of black men decided to hold an impromptu "men's mob," on Monday to show support for students and emphasize the importance of education. Moreno Valley is located about an hour and a half east of Los Angeles in a region called the Inland Empire. The city is about 20 percent white, 30 percent Latino and 20 percent black.

The men's mob gathered at Edgemont Elementary School and formed a welcoming line to encourage and support students. A women's group held a similar event on Tuesday morning.

"The goal was to show the administration that we, as black men, support education," said Jerry Green, a community advocate and member of the group.

The group was also joined by Moreno Valley School Superintendent Dr. Martinrex Kedziora and Moreno Valley School Board President Cleveland Johnson.

Kedziora said he was appreciative of Green and his group. Kedziora said he attended the event to show students that adults care about them.

He added that children absorb a lot of the negativity they see in the media, and it's important for them to know that adults value their welfare.

"It (the men's mob event) sends a valuable message to our community," said Kedziora. "I wish it happened more often."

According to Green, the teacher in question has been put on administrative leave while the issue is being investigated. The situation will also be addressed at a school board meeting on Wednesday.

"The district handled it correctly," said Green.

A school district representative said he couldn't comment on the situation while it was being investigated.

City Announces new wireless marketing plan, small cell program with 5 Bars Communities

May 26, 2017 | [ONME Newswire](#)



FRESNO, CA – The City of Fresno announced that it has entered into a multi-year agreement with 5 Bars Communities and will begin marketing the city's assets for small cell and wireless

use. This effort will enhance the ability of Fresno's citizens to access high speed wireless connectivity throughout the city. The comprehensive program encompasses intelligent infrastructure technologies, smart city initiatives and 5G wireless planning.

"This plan allows the City of Fresno to move forward in our 'smart city' efforts while identifying innovative funding streams that are a part of our

ongoing strategy of prudent fiscal management," said Fresno Mayor Lee Brand.

"We are excited to move forward with 5 Bars and this agreement in order to bring greater coverage to our City, create a platform for Smart City initiatives and drive new revenue to Fresno," said Bryon Horn, Chief Information Officer for the City of Fresno.

As wireless carriers look to densify existing networks, it is estimated that the wireless industry will deploy hundreds of thousands of small cells, making it increasingly difficult for cities to manage the application and installation process. In collaboration with the carriers, 5 Bars Communities will streamline applications with a predictable process while preserving aesthetics. As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and State of California look to pass preemptive legislation SB 649 intended to reduce local control over rights of way, finding a proactive path to protect assets and secure streamlined permitting is imperative.

"We are excited to be working alongside the City of Fresno's leadership as they look to advance their wireless footprint in the growing environment for 5G and smart city infrastructure," said Monnie McGaffigan, President of 5 Bars Communities. "All of this planning will benefit the City of Fresno for years to come and advance its economic sustainability as a wired community."

5 Bars will act as an advocate for the City, offering its intelligent platform which provides an ongoing solution that identifies opportunities for wireless collocation, while minimizing impacts from wireless facility siting decisions. The decision for Fresno to partner with 5 Bars Communities was based on maintaining local control, preventing visual blight and increasing connectivity for businesses, residents and citizens. The solution will be the basis to deploy smart city and enhance business investment, and be used to improve city services.

About 5 Bars Communities

5 Bars Communities, a DBA of XG Communities, is Headquartered in Irvine, California. As a premier provider of Small Cell Wireless Marketing Plans for Counties, Cities and Municipalities developing comprehensive wireless strategies through a unique holistic view of assets, coverage, and capacity.

Former Fresno PD Deputy Chief Foster found guilty on two counts out of eight, facing up to 20 years and here's why:

May 24, 2017 | [ONME News - Julia Dudley Najieb](#)



FRESNO, CA--In the wake of former Fresno Police Department Deputy Chief's guilty verdicts on two counts of conspiracy to distribute drug heroin and trafficking marijuana, people are either stunned or puzzled at the minimum amount of effort it took to give him 15 years to start—just with those two offenses.

Mr. Foster not only faces a maximum sentence of 20 years, he also faces incredible fines: [\\$250,000 fine for the marijuana-only trafficking offenses, and a \\$250,000 fine for using a cellphone to facilitate the commission of a felony.](#)

Although six counts were hung, they will be retried come this July in a status hearing. Mr. Foster will

remain free until his sentencing scheduled for October.

It would be dubious to blame such a conviction on the jury without understanding the federal laws in place that take small offenses to comparatively convict everyday people to big drug kingpins.

With six more counts— four separate counts to distribute, or possess with the intent to distribute oxycodone possibly regarding Foster's own 98 prescribed pills of oxycodone—to be retried due to the hung jury, it will be easier to understand the sentencing and conviction procedure by analyzing the federal conspiracy law.

Michele Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* is explicit about the mass incarceration of people of color. In 2013, Alexander explained in *Frontline*

“Mass incarceration is a massive system of racial and social control. It is the process by which people are swept into the criminal justice system, branded criminals and felons, locked up for longer periods of time than most other countries in the world who incarcerate people who have been convicted of crimes, and then released into a permanent second-class status in which they are stripped of basic civil and human rights, like the right to vote, the right to serve on juries, and the right to be free of legal discrimination in employment, housing, access to public benefits.”

Alexander further explains how the war on drugs declared by President Richard Nixon in the 1970s targeted primarily nonviolent offenders and drug offenders. The Reagan Administration was able to get more public support on the war on drugs due to the crack epidemic of the 1980s, directing more funding to the militarization of the law enforcement.

To prove they too were against drugs, the democrats supported the Clinton Administration on the war on drugs which then escalated to stricter laws that directly affected the lives of people of color—not even in the

President Obama Administration have these stringent outdated laws changed.

So now that there is a stepping point of where the war on drugs began, let's explore key interjections which made the war on drugs an explicit political gain for those in office.

The vice.com reported a staggering fact: *At the federal level, [mandatory minimums were applied](#) (find it at that link) to trafficking conspiracies at the height of the drug panic in 1988, and courts were soon crowded with suspects accused of playing some role—no matter how trivial, incidental or arbitrary—in delivering drugs to the public. Many states have their own conspiracy laws, and even today, friends and acquaintances of actual traffickers can get sentenced to life in prison because of some vague connection to the legit players running the drug trade.*

How was a federal conspiracy drug law injected to make the war on drugs seem to work flawlessly on people of color?

Eric E. Sterling was counsel to the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, 1979-1989 and participated in the passage of the mandatory minimum sentencing laws; he served as legal counsel for the US House Committee on the Judiciary and drafted the federal conspiracy law.

In [PBS' Frontline](#) he stated more clearly how this law affects the average person, to the point where when it was first enacted in 1988, the percentage of federal inmates doing time for drug offenses increased by 300 %:

"The work that I was involved in enacting these mandatory sentences is probably the greatest tragedy of my professional life. And I suspect that the chairman of the subcommittee feels that way too. There [have] been ... literally thousands of instances of injustice where minor co-conspirators in cases, the lowest level participants, have been given the sentences that Congress intended for the highest kingpins. Families are wrecked, children are orphaned, the taxpayers are paying a fortune for excessive



FEDERAL MANDATORY MINIMUMS

This list includes all federal (not state) sentencing laws that require the judge to give the offender a mandatory minimum prison term. Laws that require the judge to impose only a minimum fine or period of supervised release are not included in this list. The crimes charged most frequently today (i.e., drug crimes, gun offenses) are presented first, followed by statutes that are used less frequently. This list includes only the laws in effect as of August 6, 2012.

STATUTE & U.S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES PROVISION	DESCRIPTION OF CRIME	YEAR CREATED±	MINIMUM PRISON SENTENCE
DRUG TRAFFICKING			
21 USC §§ 841(a), 841(b)(1)(A); § 2D1.1 Mandatory sentences triggered whenever crime involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 kg+ heroin • 5 kg+ cocaine • 280 g+ crack • 100 g+ PCP (pure) or 1 kg+ PCP (mixture) • 10 g+ LSD • 1,000 kg+ marijuana or 1,000+ marijuana plants • 50 g+ meth (pure) or 500 g+ meth (mixture) 	1st offense, manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute, no death or serious bodily injury	1986	10 years*
	1st offense; manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute; death or serious bodily injury results	1986	20 years*
	2nd offense; manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute, no death or serious bodily injury results	1986	20 years*
	2nd offense; manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute; death or serious bodily injury results	1986	Life*
	3rd offense, manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute	1988	Life*
21 USC §§ 841(a), 841(b)(1)(B); § 2D1.1 Mandatory sentences triggered whenever crime involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 g+ heroin • 500 g+ cocaine • 28 g+ crack • 10 g+ PCP (pure) or 100 g+ PCP (mixture) • 1 g+ LSD • 100 kg+ marijuana or 100+ marijuana plants • 5 g+ meth (pure) or 50 g+ meth (mixture) 	1st offense; manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute, no death or serious bodily injury results	1986	5 years*
	1st offense; manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute, death or serious bodily injury results	1986	20 years*
	2nd and all subsequent offenses; manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute, no death or serious bodily injury results	1986	10 years*
	2nd or any subsequent offense; manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute, death or serious bodily injury results	1986	Life*

*These mandatory sentences also apply to attempts and conspiracies (charged as a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 or 21 U.S.C. § 963) to commit these drug crimes.

punishment. You know there's nothing conservative about punishing people too much. That's an excess. And it's just a waste. It is such a waste of human life. It's awful," Sterling stated in *Frontline*.

“Ten-year mandatory minimum, routine sentences are 15, 20, 30 years, without parole. ... Then you have conspiracy, and suddenly ... you have people facing 50 years, people facing either life in virtual terms or as a real sentence. That's what's happening. Fifteen thousand federal drug cases a year. Bulk of them mandatory minimum cases. Most of them minor offenders. Only 10% of all the federal drug cases are high level traffickers. You wonder, who's asleep at the switch at the Justice Department? ... What you have is conviction on the basis of testimony. You have drugless drug cases. You don't need powder, all you need is the witness to say, ‘I saw a kilo,’ There don't have to be drugs. All there have to be are witnesses who say, ‘I saw the drugs,’ or, ‘He said there were drugs.’ That's what you need.”

According to the [Sentencing Project](#), at the federal level, people incarcerated on a drug conviction make up just under half the prison population. At the state level, the number of people in prison for drug offenses has increased ten-fold since 1980. Most of these people are not high-level actors in the drug trade, and most have no prior criminal record for a violent offense.



Sterling reiterated that the Justice Department, DEA agents and assistant U.S. attorneys are misusing the statute, where “a pattern and practice of racial discrimination is almost overwhelmingly prosecuting people of color for tiny amounts of drugs and sending them away for kingpin sentences,” said Sterling.

“No one envisioned that by applying [the statute] to anyone in a conspiracy, no matter how low they were in the conspiratorial chain, that they would get the maximum that could be imposed for the kingpin. Nobody figured that out as we were working on it in 1988. It was a total oversight.”

According to Sterling, these cases are the easiest cases to prosecute because they are cut and dry, no defense needed.

So as one looks at the two-time felon—in the eyes of the law—fate of Mr. Foster, consider the trumped law in place that will be his downfall before assuming that the jury has taken a special interest other than the law that sets before them.

The other six counts were hung; reasonable doubt in regards to the law was not efficient. However, once Foster is retried as a two-time felon, the law becomes more detrimental to him and stringent as an already convicted felon. The second time around will make it easier to convict him for the other charges—that is the nature of the beast.

Some would argue that Mr. Foster should have taken the plea deal, which would have reduced the potential 20-year sentence to four years, and with at least 85% of the federal term being served, approximately, 3 ½ years total. There were too many odds against him: recorded wire-taps, Chief Jerry Dyer denouncing that Mr. Foster was acting undercover, and informants with statements against him.

Ninety-seven percent of federal convictions and 94% of state convictions are the results of guilty pleas. According to [themarshallproject.org](#), defendants plead guilty for a variety of reasons:

Pleas to reduced charges result from an explicit agreement between the prosecutor and defense counsel in which both parties make concessions and explain the result to the hapless defendant and the offended victim. To use an economic analogy, plea bargaining establishes a “going rate.” The

anticipated sentence is the central concern in the negotiation. The problem, however, is that both innocent and guilty defendants are placed in the same pot and the goal is to achieve the appearance of justice, not the realization of it.

In the justice system, pleas are bargains, for the guilty and innocent; it is also a recipe for disaster for one’s livelihood once they are freed—although time is served, guilt will still follow that person in every facet of his/her life. Titles and legacies are stripped, and for most people of color, poverty becomes inevitable as felon labels deter anyone from hiring that person.

Unfortunately the undercover investigation that Mr. Foster was pursuing without the knowledge of the Fresno Police Dept. did not stick as a plausible theory in court. However, it is truly plausible to identify that Mr. Foster was in financial distress--child support, divorce settlements and attorney fees--all had taken its toll, and the option of what we see today is the end result of brash decision-making and poor judgement.

ONME News will continue to keep its readers and viewers updated on the Keith Foster case as it unfolds. Stay tuned!

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Families against mandatory minimums.

Frontline

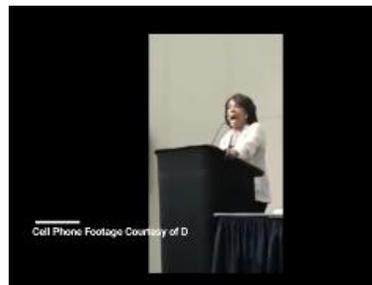
Department of Justice

Constitutional Rights Foundation

themarshallproject.org

Auntie Maxine: 'If they cut the mic's off, we gone still talk'

May 23, 2017 | [CBM Newswire](#)



SACRAMENTO, CA --Congresswomen Maxine Waters of Los Angeles microphone was cut off in mid-speech at the California Democratic Convention, African American Caucus meeting Saturday night at the Sacramento Convention Center.

Tensions were already running high waiting on final election results on who would be named the next Democratic Party chair Eric Bauman or Kimberley Ellis.

Waters was in mid-sentence telling attendees about President Donald Trump #45 is how she referred to him when convention staff alerted organizers of the event that the event ran over the allotted time for the rented sound equipment.

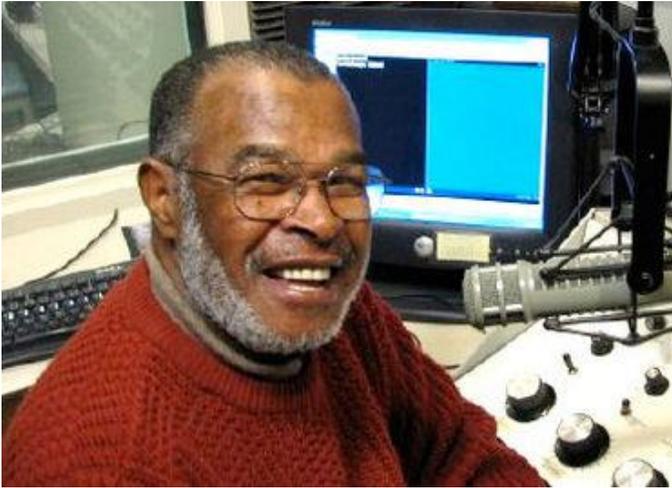
A staffer cut the microphone, and the audience moaned and started chanting "keep going, keep going.

" Waters then hopped down from the podium and said, " Shh Shh...If they cut the microphone off we gone still talk."

California Democratic Election Update: Eric Baum barely won the election by 62 votes. It has been reported that Ellis is challenging the results and has not conceded as of press time.

Central Valley Black radio icon lives on forever through our radio air waves

May 18, 2017 | [ONME Newswire](#)



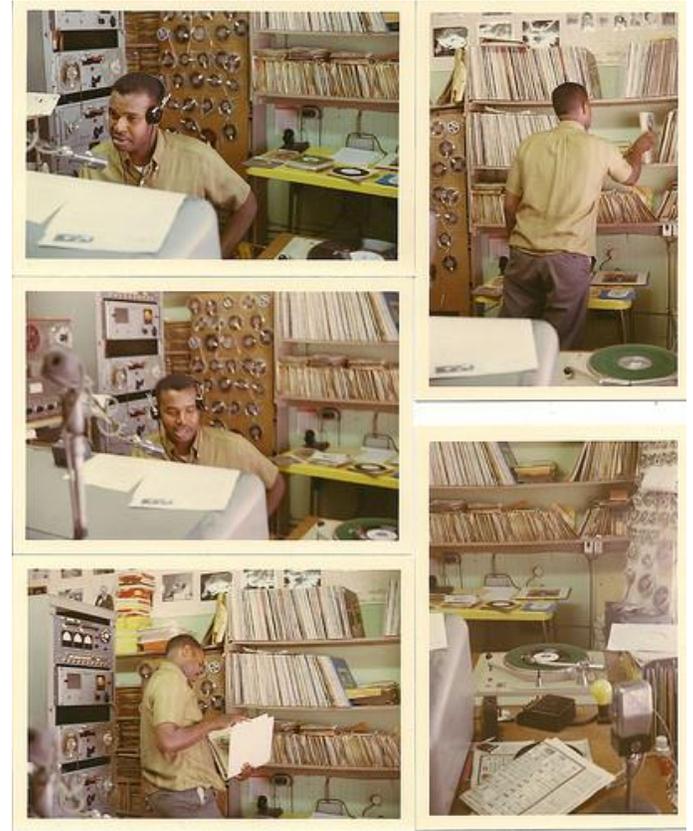
FRESNO, CA--The first Black radio station owner, Woody Miller, 89, passed away Saturday morning, May 13, 2017 battling his last few years from Alzheimer's disease.

Born in Dermott , AR, October 22, 1927, Miller moved to Fresno in 1935.

Miller began his career in the Central Valley, working at stations like KGST and KBIF during the 1950s'.

He was one of the first African-Americans in the country to own a radio station, KLIP in Fowler. His popular program The Jazz World of Woody Miller brought the sounds of artists like Miles Davis, Sarah Vaughan and Oscar Peterson, to the Fresno airwaves in the 1950's and 60's. He was also a Fresno City Council candidate in 1969, a teacher at Fresno City College, lecturer, and respected figure in the African-American community.

It was not easy for Miller to break into the broadcasting business. Miller recalls the blatant racism he encountered while trying to build a career. He started small, working part-time in sales in 1952 at stations in Fresno and Sacramento. Miller said he was able to sell so much advertising, that the managers started noticing his attitude and personality, which helped win him the sales. His big break came when he met Morrie Mindel, owner of KLIP in Fowler. Mindel gave Miller the chance to broadcast on the air. When Mindel died, Miller took over KLIP, purchasing the station.



Miller interviewed some of the greatest musicians in history such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Ray Charles. "Duke was good, but he was class, he always had on the sharp threads, and the ladies just loved him," Miller said with a smile, "But Ray Charles, he was just real." Miller said.

But things did not always go the way Woody Miller planned. His life took a turn for the worse when he could no longer afford to operate KLIP on his own. He lost the station and went broke in the late 80's.

“It was hard. Nobody in my community understood what I was going through. They listened when the station was playing music, but they didn’t understand what it took to run it.” Miller said.

When KLIP shutdown, Miller distanced himself from radio. For several years he co-founded and hosted a talk program on KFCF, later called “Valley Black Talk”.

Later he migrated back to KFSR, exposing listeners to the hottest jazz, labeled with bits of rich history.

Miller is survived by his son, Michael Miller and daughter Debbie Miller.

A memorial service for Miller is set for Saturday, June 24, 2017 at the African-American Museum, @ 10:00 AM.

Valley Black Talk Radio Show hosts plan on doing a special "Woody Miller Memorial Radio Tribute" on *The ONME Network*, from 6:00-9:00 PM Sunday, June 11, 2017. [Watch it here.](#)

Gov. Brown’s revised budget focuses on education and healthcare: Republicans express concern

May 16, 2017 | [By Manny Otiko](#) | [CBM](#)



SACRAMENTO, CA--During his presentation of the 2017-18 revised budget proposal, Gov. Jerry Brown warned Californians lean times were ahead. According to Brown, state residents should prepare for future budget cuts. The May budget revision has

adjusted the shortfall from more than \$5 billion in January to \$3.3 billion.

However, Brown said it was important to keep allocating money for essential areas such as education and healthcare.

"Over the past four years, we have increased spending by billions of dollars for education, health care, child care and other anti-poverty programs. In the coming year, I don't think even more spending will be possible," said Brown. "We have ongoing pressures from Washington and an economic recovery that won't last forever.

Brown’s budget allocates:

- An increase in funding for schools. The budget will increase K-12 funding by more than \$4,000 per student in the 2017-18 Fiscal Year.
- The May revision also restores \$500 million in funding to childcare providers.
- The budget will also provide \$2.8 billion in new funding for highway maintenance and improvements, transportation projects and rail and public transport modernization. This funding is part of the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1), which raised taxes on gas sales. The funding package provides \$54 billion over the next decade.
- The May budget revision also provides a \$6 billion supplement payment to CalPERS. This is a loan from the Surplus Investment Fund and is designed to save the state \$11 billion over the next two decades.

According to Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena,) chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, many people rely on state assistance programs to attend college.

"I applaud Gov. Brown for restoring the \$8 million Cal Grant award for students at private college and universities that was cut in January's budget proposal. Today, African American students make up nearly 6 percent of all Cal Grant awardees in California's private, nonprofit sector of higher education," said Holden. "The Cal Grant program is very important to both the African American and Latino communities, as well as other low income populations, to help provide opportunities to attend college."

However, Senate Republicans were not happy with the budget. They accused Brown of being a typical tax and spend Democrat. Senate Republican Leader Patricia Bates (R-Laguna Niguel) was critical of the controversial gas tax and the way it was being used.

"After giving Californians a lemon of a gas and car tax hike, Sacramento Democrats seem intent on giving them a lemon of a budget," said Bates. "The revised budget takes money from tax increases for programs like education and health care and transfers it to the General Fund for other purposes. Such moves underscore why raising taxes without reform is folly."

Sen. Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama), vice chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, accused Brown and Democrats of focusing on expensive projects and not preparing for future lean years.

"The Democrat majority must resist the urge to spend and instead prioritize our most vulnerable populations in anticipation of potential budget shortfalls," said Nielsen. "It is imperative that we invest in our state savings account – the Rainy Day Fund – for the inevitable economic downturn, as the governor appropriately noted."

Proposition 2, passed in 2014, requires 10 percent of tax revenues to be deposited in the state Rainy Day Fund. According to the governor's office, by the end

of FY '17-18, \$8.5 billion will be in the Rainy Day Fund, which is 66 percent of the constitutional target.

Assemblymember Chad Mayes (R-Yucca Valley) was concerned some of the money generated by recent ballot measures, such as Proposition 56, was being diverted to other areas. (Prop 56 raised taxes on cigarettes to fund low-income health care programs, tobacco prevention and early childhood development programs.)

Citing the recent gas tax hike, Mayes said California was becoming too expensive for working families. "We want to make California a place people can afford to live in," he said.

Mayor seeks candidates for Citizens' Public Safety Advisory Board

May 16, 2017 | [ONME Newswire](#)



FRESNO, CA – Mayor Lee Brand is looking for members of the

community who would like to be a part of his newly-formed Citizen's Public Safety Advisory Board.

The nine voting members of the board will be appointed by the mayor and reflect the rich diversity of the City of Fresno. Applications and information is available in two places on the City of Fresno website: the "Get Involved" icon on the main page, www.fresno.gov and also on the Mayor's webpage www.fresno.gov/mayor/.

Members of the board must be at least eighteen years old, must live in and should also be registered voters in the City of Fresno. Members will serve a four-year term and attend monthly meetings. They will also participate in regular training courses and take part in periodic ride-alongs with Fresno police

officers. Additional requirements are listed on the information sheet that accompanies the application.

Among the duties of the board will be to:

- Advise the Office of Independent Review (OIR) in helping to define, assess and further develop Community Policing citywide;
- Monitor and develop performance metrics to measure effectiveness of Community Policing;
- Review all legally available information regarding policies, practices, and procedures of the Police Department and make recommendations to the OIR;
- Hear reports from the OIR on community-Police Department relations, on the results of investigations and reviews of critical incidents; and
- Prepare quarterly reports and recommendations to be voted on by the Board.

Mayor Lee Brand created the Citizens' Public Safety Advisory Board to enhance trust, accountability and transparency and promote higher standards of services in the Fresno Police Department. This will increase public confidence in the Police Department and will help make Fresno safer for our citizens and for the brave men and women of public safety who protect and serve us.

[Click Here to apply online.](#)

CA State Dems look to elect new leadership

May 20, 2017 | [CBM Staff](#)



SACRAMENTO, CA -- Thousands of Democrats take to the Sacramento Convention Center for the 2017 California Democratic Convention this weekend.

Convention attendees have a jammed packed weekend of meetings that will help decide priorities of the party and will be electing a new State party leader.

Outgoing chair John Burton lead the party through a host of policy victories like raising state minimum wage to \$15 to the expansion of healthcare for all children including undocumented.

The California Democratic Party may be on the verge of electing a progressive candidate, Kimberly Ellis. If she wins the election, Ellis would be the first African-American and only the third woman to hold the post.

Ellis formerly served as executive director of Emerge America, an organization whose mission is to get more Democratic women elected to political office. The organization has chapters in 18 states and has trained more than 2,000 women.

Her challenger is longtime political veteran and Los Angeles Democratic Party Chair Eric Bauman. Bauman is also State party chair and has served since 2009.

Under his leadership, the LA County Democratic Party has been twice awarded Campaigns and Elections Magazine's Reed Award for the "Best Automated Call," and has received 18 Pollie Awards from the American Association of Political Consultants in categories as diverse as Social Media, Vote-by-Mail, Video, Direct Mail and Automated Calls.



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