



Inauguration Day January 7, 2019

by Martha Zaragoza Díaz, CBE Lobbyist



California Governor-Elect Gavin Newsom

Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom faced Republican businessman John Cox in the race to succeed Governor Brown. Gavin Newsom (Democrat) received 61.9% of the votes (7,721,410) and won the race for Governor in California. He was officially sworn in on January 7, 2019 as the 40th Governor of California.

Governor-Elect Newsom ended his campaign with a focus on the youngest Californians. He vowed to expand and improve early childhood education programs along with prenatal and childcare; enact a first of its kind single payer health care system for all Californians; and to end the state's growing homelessness crisis. Governor-Elect Newsom also promised a much bolder social and economic agenda. "The most important investment we can make to address the issue of systemic poverty, address the issue of criminal justice reform, is to begin at the beginning. Invest in prenatal care, early Head Start, nurse home visits, preschool," was Newsom's closing statement at a gubernatorial forum in early October 2018.



These are all "big cost" items, and while the state is doing well economically, don't expect to see a spending spree by the Governor-Elect. While Mayor of San Francisco, he reined in spending by the Board of Supervisors while simultaneously implementing universal preschool and universal healthcare during the recession. This was accomplished by drastically reducing the budgets in other city departments. The first indicator of the new governor's commitment and values will come on January 10, 2019, when Governor Newsom submits his proposed 2019-2020 state budget to the Legislature.

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond

What a nail biter of an election! Assembly Member Tony Thurmond won the race for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, defeating Marshall Tuck's second attempt for this non-partisan state office in November 2018. Assembly Member Thurmond received 50.9% of the votes (5,385,912) and Marshall Tuck (a former Wall Street banker) 49.1% of the votes (5,198,738). He declared victory on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 3 p.m. This specific election was seen as a battle between supporters of privatizing our public schools and supporters of keeping our schools out of the hands of billionaires and their privatization plans for our schools. Assembly Member Thurmond was officially sworn in on January 7, 2019, as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



It was the most expensive superintendent contest in U.S. history according to an analysis by the Associated Press. Independent groups supporting Marshall Tuck spent more than \$36 million on this race. Prominent education reform supporters, such as Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, philanthropist Eli Broad and political donor Bill Bloomfield were among Tuck's biggest contributors. Tuck's campaign raised another \$5 million. Approximately \$16 million was raised in contributions supporting Thurmond, primarily from the California Teachers Association. Thurmond's campaign raised more than \$3 million. Labor unions and the Democratic party were among the biggest donors for Thurmond's campaign and the independent efforts supporting him.

As the state's chief of public schools, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) provides education policy direction to local school districts and works with the educational community to improve academic performance. He heads the California Department of Education (CDE) and carries out policies set by the State Board of Education and serves as an ex-officio member of governing boards of the state's higher education system.

His first act as SPI was to name Lupita Cortez Alcalá as his Chief Deputy Superintendent, the second in command at the California Department of Education. Ms. Cortez Alcalá returns to the CDE, where she was an administrator for approximately twelve years, including Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and Learning Support. For the past three years, she has served as Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission and served as Chairwoman of the California Commission on the Status of Women from 2015 to 2017.



As stated on his campaign website, the SPI's plan for making California's public schools the best in the nation is the following:

- Keeping our students safe from gun violence.
- Prioritizing funding to provide schools and educators with the resources they need.
- Leading the fight against Donald Trump's and Betsy de Vos's efforts to privatize our public education system.
- Transparency in public education school funding.
- Ensuring accountability for charter schools.
- Creating a 21st Century curriculum focused on STEM education that will prepare our students for jobs of the future.
- Supporting English Learners and Bilingual Education.
- Renewing our commitment to Special Education for students of all abilities.
- Creating inclusive schools that protect LGBTQ students from bullying.
- Empowering teachers to instill critical thinking and creativity in students, not teach to the test.
- Addressing the teacher shortage by removing barriers to entry and improving affordability to enter the profession.
- Prioritizing early education and afterschool programs to close the achievement gap.
- Providing school-based physical and mental health care for all students, regardless of income or immigration status.
- Making college and career pathways accessible and affordable for every type of student.
- Keeping kids in school and out of the criminal justice system.
- Caring for kids before they even enter the public school system.



Left to right: Martha Zaragoza-Díaz, CAFE Lobbyist; Jan Gustafson Corea, CAFE CEO; Dolores Huerta, Labor Leader & Civil Rights Activist; and Elodia Ortega Lampkin, CAFE Board President at Inauguration 2019.

Currently the focus of the SPI is to develop his "team" and fill vacancies of employees who have or will be retiring; then he will focus on the development of his "transition team" and transition plan. Stay tuned for further reports.

The California Legislature

As previously stated, the State Assembly and the Senate have democratic supermajorities as a result of the November 2018 elections. Senator Toni Atkins, representing the 39th Senate District encompassing most of San Diego, continues to be the President Pro Tempore, and Assembly Member Anthony Rendon, representing the 69th Assembly District encompassing southeastern L.A. County, continues to be the Speaker of the Assembly.

With every new election, changes regarding leadership and committee appointments occur.

Senate President Pro Tempore Atkins announced the following appointments:

Leadership:

- Majority Leader: Senator Hertzberg
- Assistant Majority Leader: Senator McGuire
- Majority Whip: Senator Skinner
- Assistant Majority Whips: Senators Maria Elena Durazo and Weiner
- Democratic Caucus Chair: Senator Leyva

Standing Committees:

- Senate Appropriations: Senator Portantino, Chairperson & Senator Bates, Vice-Chair.
- Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee: Senator Mitchell, Chairperson; Senator Nielsen, Vice-Chairperson.
- Senate Education Committee: Senator Leyva, Chairperson & Senator Wilk, Vice-Chairperson.
- Senate Labor, Public Employment & Retirement Committee: Senator Hill, Chairperson & Senator Morell, Vice-Chairperson

Budget Subcommittees:

- Budget Subcommittee on Education: Senator Roth, Chairperson.

Please note for a complete listing of committee appointments and membership please go to www.legislature.ca.gov; Officers of the California State Senate.

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon previously announced his leadership team would remain the same as last year.

Leadership:

- Speaker Pro Tempore: Assembly Member Mullin
- Majority Leader: Assembly Member Calderon
- Democratic Caucus Chair: Assembly Member Gipson
- Assistant Majority Leader: Assembly Member Bonta
- Majority Whip: Assembly Member Gloria
- Rules Committee 1: Assembly Member Cooley



Speaker Rendon's new appointments to the Leadership team are:

- Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore: Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Assistant Majority Whips: Assembly Members Boerner-Horvath & Gabriel

Standing Committees:

- Aging & Long-Term Care: Assembly Member Nazarian, Chair & Voepel, Vice-Chairperson
- Appropriations: Assembly Member Gonzalez, Chair & Bigelow, Vice-Chair
- Budget: Assembly Member Ting & Assembly Member Obernolte, Vice-Chair
- Budget Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance: Assembly Member McCarty, Chair & Assembly Member Gallagher, Vice-Chair

- Education: Assembly Member O’Connell, Chair & Assembly Member Kiley, Vice-Chair
- Higher Education: Assembly Member Medina, Chair & Assembly Member Choi, Vice-Chair.
- Public Employment and Retirement: Assembly Member Rodriguez, Chair & Assembly Member Voepel, Vice-Chair.
- Joint Legislative Budget: Assembly Member Ting, Chair & Assembly Member Arambula, Vice-Chair.

Please note for a complete listing of committees and membership go to:
www.legislature.ca.gov; Officers of the California State Assembly.

Stay tuned for further legislative reports on the “happenings” in the Capitol!



CABE-istas Jan Corea, Magaly Lavadenz, Martha Hernández, and Shelly Spiegel-Coleman with Lupita Cortez Alcalá and Tony Thurmond at Inauguration 2019!