



Weekly Update

October 27 – November 3, 2025

Ambulance Service Shifting Gears

After nearly 80 years of exemplary service to San Luis Obispo County, our local family owned San Luis Ambulance Service is facing losing its grandfathered contract with the county through a Request For Proposal.

The October 21 decision to pursue an RFP came about through a request to the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors from the City of Paso Robles. The discussion drew an extremely large turnout of people on both sides of the issue, with standing room only. Total time for consideration of this item was about 2 hours 15 minutes.

It appears that several local fire departments and paramedic services are interested in forming an alliance and contracting with another ambulance company from out of our area.

Motivation seems to be mixed. Some fire department personnel spoke of slow response times, but offered few specific details. What wasn't mentioned was the

likelihood that each of the agencies that testified could possibly stand to turn ambulance service into a money maker for their department.



While having a competitive bid process for county contracted services is generally a good idea, in this case, we are concerned that some bidders will be planning to use federal or state funds to help finance their business. Should the winning bidder be reliant on such government funding and later learn that such government funding doesn't materialize, our county could be left making up the difference.

The upside to an RFP is that it could bring about a new approach to the business with possible efficiencies and perhaps more modern equipment. We won't know, however until bids are made.

The downside is the potential loss of a longtime local family owned business employing 150 people. Another potential loss is the local knowledge and relationships that exist with the company that comes with so many years of quality service.

The Board will utilize a consultant to help county administrative staff establish the parameters of the RFP and to assess the results.

Supervisor Moreno offered a middle ground concept which would give county management staff 90 days to negotiate a new contract with San Luis ambulance. This seemed like a great common-sense solution, and if an agreement couldn't be achieved within that time frame, then the process would go to the RFP. When the majority of the Board pretended not to hear Moreno's motion, it became clear that the objective was to open the door for the municipalities to take over the business.

Buddy, Can You Spare Another Penny?

A second tax measure is now officially being prepared for SLO County voters. In addition to the proposed half cent countywide sales tax transportation measure currently being prepared for the November '26 election, we have a new way for you to support your government.

Under direction from the BoS, county staff reported on three possible “revenue enhancements” that the county could utilize to bolster firefighting and public safety programs. As we all know, the term “revenue enhancement” is a euphemism for increased tax revenue.

The problem that our County Supervisors are trying to solve is, for the most part, one that they created in the first place. Our Board of Supervisors have established priorities, which then influences how much tax revenue will be spent on each priority.

If some people might think that public safety is one of the basic high priority things that should be funded first with tax dollars, well silly folk - think again. Same thing with roads.

To be honest, Public Safety is our second highest budget item, but it falls far behind Health and Human Services. HHS of course covers our highest priority, which is homelessness.

All politics aside, the most recent fire season brought the Gifford and Madre fires which burned more than 200,000 acres in SLO County. These fires came close to housing and focused attention on the fact that we are short a few critical fire stations and plenty of fire personnel. Our good Sheriff has been trying to call attention to his staffing issues as well, especially for servicing the more rural communities of SLO County.

So, we have a funding issue that is unlikely to change quickly, and we have public safety needs that must be met. The easy thing to do is put a “revenue enhancement” on the ballot and hope voters are willing to support it.

County staff put forth the following three options:

Revenue Option	Description
District Sales Tax (Transactions & Use Tax)	In addition to the statewide sales and use tax base rate (7.25%), voters in jurisdictions can approve a district transaction and use tax.
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT / Hotel Tax)	TOT is a visitor tax on individuals staying in hotels or other lodgings, and revenue collected in the unincorporated area of the county supports County general funded services.
Utility User Tax (UUT)	A UUT is a local tax imposed on the consumption of various utility services, commonly including electricity, gas, water, sewer, telephone (including cell and long-distance), sanitation, and cable television.

Supervisor Gibson enthusiastically offered up a fourth option: a parcel tax. He was so very concerned about the regressive nature of a sales tax that despite seeing no support from any of his colleagues, proceeded to present a mini lecture on how great parcel taxes are.

County staff then offered up some important differences between a General Tax and a Special Tax:

Revenue Option	Legal/Voter Approval Requirements		Estimated Yield (Unincorporated Tax)
	General Tax (Use of Revenue Unrestricted)	Special Tax (Use of Revenues Specific Purpose)	
District Sales Tax (Transactions & Use Tax)	2/3 vote BOS + Majority of entire county if levied on entire county -or- Majority of unincorporated area if levied on the unincorporated area	2/3 vote BOS + 2/3 Vote of entire county if levied on the entire county -or- 2/3 Vote of the unincorporated area if levied on the unincorporated area	1% = \$22 million
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT / Hotel Tax)	2/3 of BOS + Majority of electorate	Majority of BOS + 2/3 of electorate	1% = \$1.8 million
Utility User Tax (UUT)	2/3 of BOS + Majority of electorate	Majority of BOS + 2/3 of electorate	Special analysis would be needed

Staff also provided a comparison of nearby taxing jurisdictions:

Jurisdiction		Sales Tax	TOT	Utility Users' Tax
Counties	Monterey	8.75%	10.5%	None
	San Luis Obispo	7.25%	9%	None
	Santa Barbara	7.75%	14%	None
	Santa Cruz	9.50%	12% for Hotel/Motels and 14% for Vacation Rentals	None
	Ventura	7.25%	8%	None
Cities	Arroyo Grande	8.75%	10%	None
	Atascadero	8.75%	10%	None
	Grover Beach	8.75%	12%	1%
	Morro Bay	8.75%	10%	None
	Paso Robles	8.75%	11%	None
	Pismo Beach	8.25%	11%	None
	San Luis Obispo	8.75%	10%	4.5% on prepaid wireless; 4.8% on telecommunications and video; and 5% on water, gas and electricity

And a few other pertinent details:

- District sales tax initiative in the unincorporated area is recommended as the most viable option to provide the scale and sustainability of revenues necessary to address ongoing public safety needs.
- General vs Special Tax
 - General Tax (simple majority voter threshold, flexible use of revenues)
 - Special Tax (two-thirds voter threshold, legally restricted to a stated purpose).
- **Base statewide tax rate is 7.25%**
 - 6.00% State
 - 1.00% Local Jurisdiction
 - 0.25% Local Transportation Fund
 - Note: Max. combined district tax rate within any county may not exceed 2% unless specifically authorized by statute
- **Functional Differences: Bradley Burns (1%) local tax vs Voter Approved District Tax**
 - Local tax is allocated based on an origin methodology where tax is allocated based on the place-of-sale
 - District taxes are allocated on a destination methodology where tax generally follows the buyer
- **> 90% of State live in communities with a TUT**

After discussion, it became apparent that the Board supported a one-cent special sales tax in unincorporated areas.

Further, since it's almost a certainty that a half-cent sales tax measure will be put on the November ballot by SLOGOG for transportation, several Board Members pushed for a June ballot measure. In order to meet such a short timeline, language must be submitted by mid-January of 2016.

With such a timeframe, very little polling can be done to help define the parameters and language of such a tax. This raises the question of who will establish the priorities of such a tax, and who will decide the distribution. As an example, Public Safety can be interpreted to mean more Sheriff Deputies and Firefighters serving the public. But, as Supervisor Gibson pointed out, it could mean more staff at the County Health Department.

The voting public has become weary of tax measures on the ballot promising one thing but delivering something very different. Too often, bait and switch schemes are used to fool taxpayers into funding things that they would normally not support if they hadn't been misled by greedy tax and spend elected officials.

County staff has been charged with further research and development of the sales tax concept and will make regular reports to the Supervisors over the next two months. If you have strong feelings about such a tax, it would be wise to be as vocal as possible, directing your comments to each Supervisor.

Housing Help Opposed By No-Growth Sups

The Dana Reserve, a planned housing community for Nipomo, is scheduled to be considered for final approval at the November 4 San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting. This 1,242 home community has been in the planning/approval stages for seven years, going through countless revisions and modifications in order to satisfy local needs and desires, as well as all building codes and regulations,

It is a big deal for three reasons; SLO County desperately needs housing at all levels; this project will define which Supervisors are truly committed to achieving

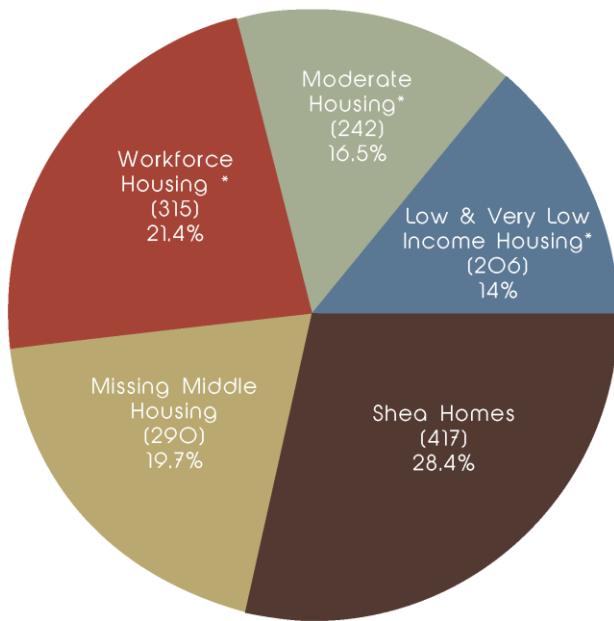
more housing; this project could set the tone for housing development in SLO County for years to come.

In the first point, our county has a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) that is supposed to be used to guide housing policy to meet the needs of various housing categories. It establishes total numbers of new housing needed in each category to maintain a reasonable and healthy housing market for residents.

Here is our RHNA:

Income Category and example occupations	Number of Dwelling Units			Percent Completed
	Total Need	Permitted (2019-2024)	Remaining Need	
Very Low-Income (e.g., barista, farmworker, childcare employee)	801	7	794	1%
Low-Income (e.g., family social worker, community health advocate, roofer)	505	226	279	45%
Moderate-Income (e.g., occupational health worker, construction cost estimator, electrician)	585	246	339	42%
Above Moderate-Income	1,365	1,132	233	83%
Total	3,256	1,611	1,645	49%

The graph below illustrates the breakout of housing types as planned for the Dana Reserve. Note that the 206 very low and low-income units almost matches the total of 233 constructed over a five-year period throughout the unincorporated portions of the county. The 242 moderate income homes are very close to the 246 moderate income homes built over that same five-year period throughout the unincorporated areas of the county:



Housing types planned for the Dana Reserve

The second point is that we have Supervisors who love to put themselves up as housing advocates fighting to bring about housing solutions. With the Dana Reserve, they can either live up to such a self-portrayal, or they need to find some smarmy excuse that gives them cover to crawl back under their no growth rock.

The third point is a little scary. After watching what it took to get the Dana Reserve this far, what developer would bother bringing a large-scale project to the county? If the Dana Reserve project fails, it will have a deeply chilling effect on new housing.

One of the first things taught in Public Policy school is don't let the perfect become the enemy of the good. Maybe that is what is happening here.

Supervisor Bruce Gibson has already stated his opposition citing some obscure legal settlement made in the course of bringing the project parameters in line with local concerns. (Obviously, this seems to just be his smarmy excuse to hide his real no-growth attitude). He also likes to suggest he is concerned about the “public good” but never seems capable of illustrating that public good and how it outweighs all the

other public goods that the project obviously delivers. He appears to think the public is better off with an empty field than it would be with homes.

Supervisor Paulding has yet to state his intentions but echoes Gibson's sentiment. The irony is that Paulding's district stands to gain the most from the project, including much needed infrastructure improvements, a South County campus for Cuesta College and a healthy job market for the building and trades people who will be constructing the homes and businesses in the Dana Reserve. Oh, there are also the 1,242 individuals and families that will make the Dana Reserve their home.

Paulding's reasoning may be breaking down from the stress of a rigorous challenge in his reelection bid. He is a liberal in a conservative leaning district and he has stepped into too many issues where he is on the opposite side of the majority of his constituents. Will this be another one of those missteps?

Our housing needs impact everybody. Whether you shop at a local store, eat at a local restaurant or use a local service, you are paying higher prices because the business is forced to pay higher wages to get and keep good employees. These employees are struggling to be able to afford to live anywhere near where they work.

Just take a drive down Highway 101 from San Luis Obispo to Santa Maria anytime around 5:00 PM on a weekday and observe how many people are commuting home.

Our housing situation impacts those who hope to raise their family locally. It impacts business owners considering locating their company in our communities.

One naturally wonders why Supervisors Paulding and Gibson would oppose such a strong step forward towards meeting our housing needs. Are they closet no growthers hiding behind hollow rhetoric advocating for housing when they would really prefer that people just go away? Or is it that they are uncomfortable with the kind of people the Dana Reserve might attract?

Perhaps they fear independent, self-sustaining, productive people not reliant on big government. Certainly, Paulding has expressed concern that there is not enough

very low-income housing in the project. So, is it better that nobody gets low income housing than those who will in the Dana Reserve? How can that be reasonable?

We can't predict how the vote on this project will go on November 4. A commonsense approach would seem to favor the project. A genuine recognition of our local housing needs would seem to support the project. But, when Supervisors start grasping at straws in an attempt to find excuses to vote against such a productive project, it is clear politics have been put above solutions. When that happens, personal biases or greed often win out. We hope for a win for the community and a loss for short sightedness.

An Expensive Travesty

We have pointed out the foibles of our county appeal system for coastal zone building permits many times recently. And we will continue to do so because it is a completely lopsided and unfair process.

As a case in point, an appeal came before the BoS at their October 21 meeting involving a permit to build a single-family home on an empty lot in Cayucos. The plans were entirely conforming to all building codes and local regulations and were approved in May of this year. However, a next-door neighbor appealed the permit on the grounds that the owners of the lot chopped down a tree, that the owners were going to stop her (the appellant) from being able to use the owners property to access her own property and that the proposed home was a two story structure that would constrict views of the ocean from the scenic highway.

The empty lot in question is designated with a star in the photo below:



It turns out that the tree is actually a shrub (not a tree) and was only trimmed, not removed. The access issue was adjudicated and resolved, and had no bearing on the permit, and the real kicker – the appellant's house is a two-story house as are the rest of the houses on the street.

This travesty cost taxpayers between \$8,500 to \$13,000 for county staff and County Council to review. It cost the lot owners five months of delays and the expenses involved with retaining council of their own. It cost the appellant NOTHING!

This is not an unusual case. In one local coastal community, almost every building permit seems to get challenged, including permits for interior renovations or to replace an existing rotting structure such as a deck with the same but new materials.

Thank goodness we have big bunches of very wealthy taxpayers happily sending huge tax payments in as frequently as they do and thank goodness nobody really cares about being unjustly delayed in their efforts to build their dream home.

Prop 50 Home Stretch

By now, every California voter should have received their Proposition 50 special election ballot. That Prop 50 is unfair, undemocratic and tragically expensive has already been established. Whether voters will be fooled by the lies and misrepresentations from the Yes campaign remains to be seen.

Please take the 30 seconds required to fill out your ballot and encourage family and friends to do the same.

There are still opportunities to help defeat Prop 50. The two GOP headquarters listed below are running get out the vote programs and will be thrilled to have your help.

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7357 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422

(805) 541-4010

Arroyo Grande

1312 E Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-2422

(805) 668-2064

If you are registered to vote, but have not received a ballot, please contact The San Luis Obispo Clerk/Recorder by clicking on this link: [Elections and Voting](#) or call (805) 781-5000.

If you plan to vote in person at a balloting location, please verify the address of your polling location as listed on your ballot. Many precincts have had consolidations for polling place locations, so your usual spot may have changed.

Governor Newsom and his legislative friends have invested between two hundred million and three hundred million of our tax dollars to try to fool voters into supporting a rigged election scheme where politicians get to draw their own heavily partisan districts.

Cast your ballot to show Newsom what you think of his scheme.

Last Week

A Housing Hypocrite In Our Midst

It is good that Supervisor Gibson has declared his intent to vote against the approval of a project that would bring 1242 homes to San Luis Obispo County – including 206 low and very low-income homes. Now we know for certain what so many suspect; that Gibson is a hypocrite. He loves to talk (and talk and talk) about the need for housing in SLO County. He loves to represent himself as a housing advocate and as a leader guiding the financially challenged to attain their dream of homeownership. He harumphs, stammers and all but chokes back tears when discussing SLO County's Regional Housing Needs Assessment that illustrates pathetically little progress at meeting our local housing needs. However, it appears that it's all for show.

Here is the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of a hypocrite:



hypocrite **noun**

hyp·o·crite (hi-pə-,krit 

[Synonyms of hypocrite >](#)

1 : a person who puts on a false appearance of [virtue](#) or religion

2 : a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings

Seems to fit this situation pretty darn well.

Last week, we wondered if Supervisors Gibson and Paulding would prove themselves to be hypocrites on the subject of housing when the Dana Reserve project would come before the Board of Supervisors for final approval on November 4. As it turns out, Gibson has taken away all doubt. Yes, he is a hypocrite on housing and he essentially said so much in an Op/Ed piece bearing his name in a local newspaper on October 15. Read it here if you have the patience: <https://www.sanluisobispo.com/opinion/byn-columnists/blogs/article312500234.html#storylink=cpy>

In that Op/Ed, Gibson suggests that his main opposition to the project is that the litigants in a lawsuit regarding the project chose to keep the details of the resulting settlement private – a common practice. He calls the settlement “secret” implying that it was somehow arrived at in a smoke filled back room by a bunch of fast dealing ne’er-do-wells. In fact, like all legal settlements, it was done through the courts and approved by a judge. It was a private matter between three private entities who came to agreement. There was a reason that all parties agreed to keep the details confidential. Perhaps it was to avoid the meddling of certain elected officials who have no business sticking their manipulative noses into other peoples private business.

Despite Gibson’s moaning about a “secret settlement, he goes on to say that he seems to know the details: “I’m told by people who should know that NAC {Nipomo Action Committee} and CNPS {California Native Plant Society} would receive a total of some \$2 million.” He goes on to offer three bullet points of details about the “secret” settlement then whines about how the public “has a right to know the details”.

He also mentions 19 environmental concerns “that can’t be completely mitigated”. That’s an easy cheap shot. Name one 1246 unit housing project that doesn’t disrupt the environment in some fashion.

Then he continues to whine about the number of affordable units that have been cut from the project, down from the original 156 units to about half of that number along with the elimination of 100 additional dwelling units (ADUs). So apparently its “so sad too bad” for the hopeful purchasers of those remaining affordable units. Maybe Gibson can put on his housing advocate hat and help them find one of the many alternative units on the market.

His final point, which he fails to illustrate (probably couldn’t) is this whole public good thing and how to “balance public and private benefits.”

As we pointed out last week, there is a vast public benefit to this project. Just a few examples: almost all residents of Nipomo who stand to benefit enormously from needed community wide infrastructure improvements brought about through the project, the hundreds of construction workers and trades people who will be employed, local material suppliers, thousands of students and faculty that will be part of the new Cuesta College South Campus included in the project and over 1,200 individuals and families that will make the Dana Reserve their home.

Gibson fails to delineate the public good that is more important than these elements. Where is his balancing that outweighs homes for so many people? Presumably, he thinks the public is better served by an empty field.

It’s pretty clear that Gibson doesn’t walk the talk (talk, talk, talk). He finds whatever excuse he can, regardless of its baselessness, to vote against housing. If it’s not perfect, it’s a big fat no!

Here is what he doesn’t bring up on his arguments against the project: seven years for the developer working with county staff and the community - creating a plan that is acceptable and conforms with an unimaginable number of rules, regulations and rolls of red tape, the enormous financial investment and the hope of a developer that at the end of such an incredible hassle a profit can be made.

He doesn’t mention that this project is an anecdote for SLO County housing.

Gibson is the perfect example of why housing doesn't get built in SLO County – affordable or otherwise. The message that he sends to developers is very discouraging. Its chilling effect moves investors and contractors elsewhere. Sadly, this is especially true for low-income housing where the profit margin is so very low.

Along with his obvious hypocritic approach to housing in general, many around town suspect that Gibson has an additional motive to make such a big deal over bupkis regarding this project. That suspicion is that he is providing cover for his protégé Jimmy Paulding.

If Gibson or Paulding was a true housing advocate and gave a hoot about SLO County residents desperately looking for housing options, they would be looking for ways to make this project happen, not throwing out poorly reasoned excuses to stop it.

Supervisor Paulding is in a pickle. His district stands to benefit enormously from the project, but he is the same kind of “housing advocate” as Gibson. His liberal no-growth housing advocate supporters are pressuring him for a no vote. He needs an excuse to vote against the project in order to appease those who are supporting his reelection. He hopes that if Gibson makes enough noise about the nonexistent public good, that he can skate by echoing those sentiments. Does that make Paulding a hypocrite as well? Do we really have to ask?

Strange Elements in Housing Plans

The first item on the agenda for the October 21 meeting of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors is to update the 2020-2028 HOUSING ELEMENT IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK. This is a continuation of the many hours that the BoS has devoted, along with the hundreds of hours that county staff has dedicated to modifying our County Housing Element Standards.

As we have reported in recent months, a great deal of work has gone into making numerous changes to the requirements that builders have to conform to if they hope to undertake a housing construction project within SLO County.

Some of the updates seem silly, some important, but the general thrust of the entire effort is to make housing projects either easier or more attractive. We have heard no testimony from actual builders about whether these changes accomplish their goals, but are a little suspicious of some and wonder about unintended consequences of others.

Here are a few excerpts from the coming presentation by staff. The first is a list of changes sought for multi-family dwelling units:

1. Allowing multi-family dwelling development as a principal use in the Office and Professional (OP), Commercial Retail (CR), and Commercial Service (CS) Land Use Categories
2. Reducing the permit requirements
3. Increasing the maximum number of dwelling units allowed per acre
4. Increasing the maximum floor area allowed
5. Reducing the minimum open space area required
6. Reducing the minimum landscape area required
7. Reducing the minimum parking spaces required
8. Increasing the maximum building height allowed
9. Reduce the minimum setbacks required

Read these carefully and imagine what a product of these priorities looks like. If you are seeing “stack and pack” you are reading them right.

Guiding Principle 1: Plan with placemaking in mind to build towards our community vision while addressing the unincorporated county's housing needs and State regulations.

Guiding Principle 2: Develop more options that incentivize property owners and developers to build housing that significantly contribute to the unincorporated county's unmet RHNA objectives.

Guiding Principle 3: Increase predictability in the permitting process.

Guiding Principle 4: Support and prioritize new residential development in areas identified for strategic regional residential development and other areas that are (a) located along priority transportation corridors (i.e. highways identified by San Luis Obispo Council of Governments as priorities for regional infrastructure investments), (b) located in or between areas with higher concentration of jobs and services, and (c) located within or in close proximity to existing urbanized areas or communities. [Housing Element Policy HE 1.01]

While we like item 3 and wonder why it took so long to call it out, we also find a great deal of irony in the others. Particularly number 2. The irony, of course, is that the Dana Reserve project fits each of those points.

Regarding number 4, it is worth noting that SLOCOG may have some routes or corridors identified in a file somewhere that fall under the category of wishful transportation corridors, but they don't offer a transit service anywhere in the county that has the frequency to qualify as such. Implementing number 4 would be strictly aspirational.

The next segment should be chilling to anybody who owns a home and wishes to do with it what they want. It lays the groundwork to strictly limit and regulate vacation rentals. The concept is that if you couldn't rent a home out as a VRBO, you would rent it out to a low-income person, thus solving their housing problem. What county staff fail to understand is that VRBO revenues are often used to cover expenses such as mortgage, insurance and utilities which in many cases are greater than the potential long-term rental revenue prospects. They also fail to note that

VRBO rentals contribute TOT tax revenue to the county while long term does not. Finally, they completely fail to recognize the concept of private property rights:

One of the primary approaches to address rising housing demand is to increase housing supply. However, the positive impacts of increasing housing supply are nullified if dwelling units are not used for residential purposes. Short-term rental uses, such as vacation rentals, are nonresidential uses that effectively reduce the unincorporated county's housing stock. This action is to establish a limit on short-term rental uses in areas within Urban Reserve Lines and Village Reserve lines.

The last example is regarding incentivizing Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs) as a way to meet the very low- and low-income housing needs in the county. While number 3 makes sense, we really have to wonder about number 1.

As it turns out, the county counts all ADUs built as Very Low-Income Housing. They count ADUs built as guest houses, art studios, dance workshops, or any other non-rental use as Very Low-Income rentals. OK, pretty fishy, but if there is an owner occupied requirement, how could any ADU be counted as low income housing. If an owner is so low in the income category, how do they have the property and financial resources to put in an ADU, and what happened to their regular home that they previously occupied?

Also, can a condominium really be an ADU?

1. Removing owner-occupancy requirements for junior ADUs
2. Allowing for ADU condominiums
3. Simplifying ADU regulations
4. Developing regulations to address Senate Bill No. 9 (2021)

No Kings - No Sense

So, the No Kings crowd hit the streets on October 18. Thousands of them, perhaps tens of thousands if media reports are to be believed. Imagine their commitment. First, they went out and bought sign materials, followed by the painting of slogans and attempts at pithy remarks. Then came the drive to and parking at whatever high profile location was on the docket. Then the hours of yelling, sign waiving and dancing around inflatable toys.

All that to what end? Was there a defined message? What was the take way for drivers witnessing the antics? Was anything accomplished?

Sure, we all got the message that there are people upset at the administration. But that was no revelation. Some signs registered opposition to ICE, some to federal job cuts and some making fun of the President's hair.

But was there any sort of theme regarding what they actually stand for?

Imagine all that energy, and all those people spending all that time cleaning up beaches or parks, fixing up the community center, helping seniors with yard work or assisting at a homeless shelter. There are dozens of tasks that with the same energy spent, would have made a real difference.

Imagine if all those people spoke out about one cause that was important to them – the same cause, in unison as a coalition or even as a political party with a vision.

Yes, there are lots of people who do not like the present administration, and many of them know why they are unhappy. But some are discontent because of one thing, while others are upset about something else.

Where are the leaders to bring them all together to focus that energy and to define their ideals for moving forward?

It's really quite simple to be against. Whatever the subject, a cynic can always find something to fuss about. We hope the day comes when, rather than complaining, those very same people take to the streets working towards attainable goals with real solutions.

No King Newsom

Speaking of No Kings, did any of those protesters notice the arbitrary and imperial act our Governor undertook by creating a very expensive special election designed specifically to undo the last election and circumvent the next few elections in a way that is specifically designed to benefit one political party while completely short changing another?

So much for saving democracy!

Want to give Governor a little push back? The only way to slow his impetuous disregard for true democracy is to defeat Proposition 50. The No On Prop 50 campaign is being run through the two local GOP offices. They have volunteer opportunities, signs and as always, a need for financial support. Your right to complain if Prop 50 passes comes only if you do something to help defeat it.

The bonus is imagining how stupid Newsom will look when it loses and becomes apparent that everybody saw through his lies and deception.

Call or stop by for a friendly greeting and appreciation for anything you can do to help:

Atascadero

7357 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422

(805) 541-4010

Arroyo Grande

1312 E Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-2422

(805) 668-2064



Emergent Trends
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**Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty ---
Proposes Property Tax Hike to fund
Homeless Housing**

**California's gerrymander and
generational rift could shake up its
Democratic hierarchy**

COLAB In Depth
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**Did CA Democrats Manipulate Prop 50
Maps For Political Insiders?**

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Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty Proposes Property Tax Hike to fund Homeless Housing

California's Legislative Analyst's Office reported that the state has spent approximately \$37 billion on homelessness since 2019, with no results

By [Katy Grimes](#), October 22, 2025

Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty, a Democrat, announced at his first State of the City address Monday, that he is proposing a new tax plan to fund more tiny homes and junkie-homeless housing, after the state of California has already spent and wasted more than \$37 billion on homeless drug addicted vagrants who don't want housing or treatment.

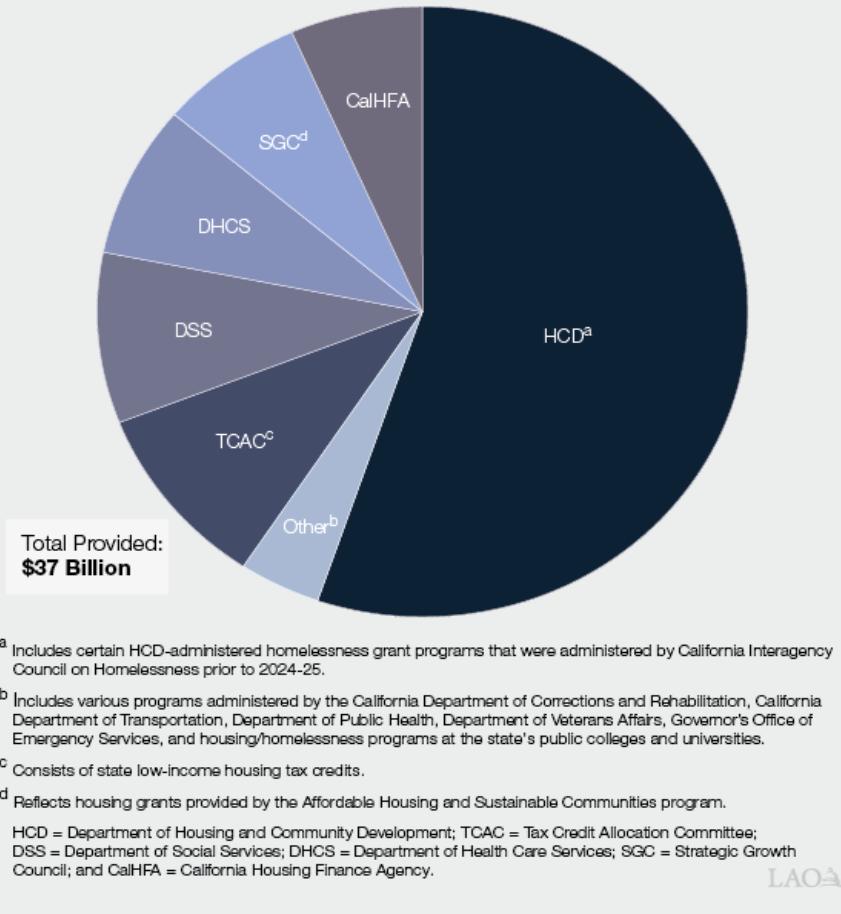
Sacramento has provided tiny homes, renovated hotels, RV trailers, most of which sit empty. The government-run homeless fraud needs to end.

California's Legislative Analyst's Office reported that the state has spent \$37 billion on homelessness since 2019, but there is a lack of data to determine the effectiveness of these expenditures. That means most of the \$37 billion is unaccounted for, and there are still hundreds of thousands of junkies living on California streets.

Figure 1

State Has Provided a Total of About \$37 Billion for Housing and Homelessness in Recent Years

2019-20 Through 2024-25



Imagine that. I’m sure Mayor McCarty has seen these numbers. But apparently, more is never enough when Democrats can just tap into private property owners, whereby property owners effectively pay rent to the government in order to keep their homes.

McCarty is proposing a real estate tax increase on the sale of “only high-priced homes” – “homes valued at more than \$1 million to help fund more housing projects like tiny home communities and downpayment assistance for first time homebuyers. McCarty wants the tax increase proposal on the 2026 ballot,” CBS 13 News reported.

Um, No.

Most decent middle class homes – and not just “high priced homes”- have inflated to \$1 million+ in California.

“It’s called the property transfer tax and is a fee paid each time a home is sold in Sacramento, with the amount based on a home’s value. For example, a home that sells for \$500,000 currently pays \$1,375.”

“Last year, the tax raised more than \$12 million although the annual amount is volatile due to market fluctuations.”

Contrasting the irresponsible tax-and-spend Democrats is Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who is proposing to eliminate property taxes for homeowners. DeSantis says this change would relieve financial pressure on homeowners and promote traditional homeownership in the state.

What a concept – eliminate property taxes and increase home ownership.

“Property taxes effectively require homeowners to pay rent to the government. Florida residents need relief,” DeSantis said in March.

Mayor McCarty says, “We still see too many unsheltered people on our streets in our community and we need to do things differently.”

That is where the Mayor and I agree. Start with incarceration of the “unsheltered, unhoused” street-junkies.

Building more tiny homes only benefits the builders and developers. And while I support more building and development, it needs to be done for future home buyers, and not for the population living in their own filth on the streets – by choice. Most don’t want help.

I would venture that the state has failed miserably to manage the homeless crisis, but it is a crisis created by the left and Democrats, and their supposed solutions aren’t solutions at all.

Increasing taxes on the responsible property owners and taxpayers is the least creative “solution” and most punitive – on the people who already pay for everything government spends.

Mayor McCarty is just another of the revolving door, has-been Democrats to “lead” Sacramento. His political and voting record is so atrocious, if he was a private sector worker, he’d have been out of a job years ago.

Sacramento residents may want to consider a recall election should the Mayor and City Council continue this outrageous proposal.

Remember that \$37,000,000,000 billion was spent on homeless in California. This is Gavin Newsom’s and Kevin McCarty’s California.

California’s gerrymander and generational rift could shake up its Democratic hierarchy



BY DAN WALTER OCTOBER 24, 2025

Democratic politicians throughout California — those already in office and those who want in — assume that voters will rearrange the state’s 52 congressional districts next month and create new career opportunities.

The assumption is well grounded. A recent CBS News poll found 62% of the state’s likely voters, driven by disdain for President Donald Trump, will enact Proposition 50, a plan to shift five more congressional seats to Democrats even though they already have 43.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's gerrymander would offset pro-Republican redistricting schemes in Texas and other states that Trump seeks to retain, or perhaps expand, the GOP's paper-thin majority in the House next year.

With Prop. 50 seemingly a slam-dunk, current Democratic congressional members and wannabes are trying to sort out who will run for what — no small feat. To create the new seats, the Democrats' political cartographers have to spread the party's 10.4 million voters more thinly, reducing its margins in districts it already holds.

California also is not immune to the Democrats' generational conflict, in the wake of their loss to Trump last year after an aged and obviously impaired President Joe Biden dropped out.

[Politico](#) declares that “fully half of the state’s older House Democrats are set to face same-party challengers next year...”

The most interesting example is in San Francisco, where 85-year-old [Rep. Nancy Pelosi](#), the former House speaker who has held her congressional seat for nearly 40 years, has already drawn two primary opponents even though she hasn't announced whether she'll run again.

First in was 39-year-old Saikat Chakrabarti, a former campaign aide and staffer to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, typifying the young progressives who have chafed at their party's geriatric leadership.

His candidacy forced the issue for state Sen. Scott Wiener, who at 55 is no spring chicken. He has been waiting patiently for years for Pelosi to retire. Wiener declared his candidacy this week, telling the New York Times, “The world changes. I made a decision that it makes sense for me to get into the

race now because I'm passionate about San Francisco having the best possible representation."

Pelosi won't announce her intentions until after Prop. 50 is decided. But if she does retire, she likely wants to choose her successor — which is how she got her congressional seat in 1987.

San Francisco politics have a long history of control by a few powerful factions, most prominently one created in the 1950s by [Willie Brown](#), brothers Phillip and John Burton and George Moscone.

The Burtons both served in Congress. John Burton was a long-time legislative leader and Moscone, then the city's mayor, was assassinated in 1978.

Brown, now 91 and the only one of them still alive, wields massive influence in the city, after being the longest-tenured Assembly speaker and winning two terms as mayor. He was instrumental in the careers of Newsom and former Vice President Kamala Harris.

Pelosi, born into a powerful political family in Baltimore, continued the family business in 1963 after marrying Paul Pelosi, scion of an influential San Francisco family, and moving to his city.

She integrated into the Brown-Burton-Moscone organization. When Phillip Burton died in 1983, his widow, Sala, took over his congressional seat and then, before dying in 1987, designated Pelosi as her successor.

San Francisco media have speculated that if Pelosi steps down, she might favor Connie Chan, a city supervisor, as her successor, noting that Chan was

the only local official to speak alongside Pelosi at a recent Prop. 50 rally. However, it's also been rumored that daughter Christine Pelosi might want to succeed her mother.

That's the way things have gone in San Francisco for decades. Will it continue or is evolution in the air?

Did CA Democrats Manipulate Prop 50 Maps For Political Insiders?

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas is positioning himself for a congressional run in a newly created 'Prop 50' seat

By Megan Barth, October 21, 2025

Editor's note: This article has been edited to include a comment from Rivas' campaign spokesperson Elizabeth Ashford.

As Governor Gavin Newsom and California Democrats try to "Trump Proof" California through his \$300 million Prop 50 pet project, and Attorney General Rob Bonta files over three dozen lawsuits against the administration, all signs point to Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas positioning himself for a congressional run in one of the new "open" seats that could be created if Proposition 50 passes.

District 18



New congressional district map CD-18. (Photo: @politico)

Under the proposed Prop 50 map, the California's new 18th District would shift slightly to the right about 1.1 percent more Republican, predominantly Latino, but still safely Democratic. The redraw conveniently splits Rivas off into a more favorable district, away from Rep. Zoe Lofgren, who currently represents the 18th. Speaker Rivas recently released a new ad supporting Prop 50, a ballot measure critics say would let Sacramento politicians redraw congressional maps mid-decade, effectively choosing their own voters.

"This isn't the America that we know that welcomed my grandfather as an immigrant farm worker sending troops into our cities expanding ICE's overreach, ordering arrests without warrants. Donald Trump wants to be a tyrant. We must fight back to protect our families, to protect our communities, and to protect our elections. Vote yes on Proposition 50. Enough is enough," Rivas says in the ad.

What's interesting is that Rivas has been running ads in the region long before Prop 50 was even on the ballot, signaling a slow-burn name ID play in the very area that would become his political launchpad under the newly redrawn lines.

Back in February, Rivas feigned his concern for his constituents, and surprisingly admitted that California Democrats have created the cost of living crisis that plagues all Californians:

“As I said in December, our constituents don’t feel the state of California is working for them, and their primary concern is the cost of living here at home.

We all know that because they’re telling us that repeatedly. So our task is urgent and it’s clear: To make life more affordable for every resident.

Of course, we will face challenges that we don’t know are coming—like the horrific fires in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, we know that more challenges will come.

And these are times when we must come together to find consensus. Not rush to social media, to point fingers, or to dis-inform.

Our job, above all else, is to protect our residents whether the threat is wildfires, other natural disasters or threats to their civil liberties and freedoms.

Let me be blunt – right now, Californians are being threatened by an out-of-control administration in Washington—that doesn’t care about the Constitution... and thinks there are no limits to its power.

Increasingly, our own residents are being threatened by actions taken by the Trump administration, and it is our duty to rise to the moment.

We must ensure that our residents receive the federal services and benefits that they have contributed to and that they deserve.

Given the many executive orders that have been issued over the past two weeks I can say with clarity that we do not trust President Donald Trump.”

Rivas and Governor Newsom are not running to fix the cost of living crisis they have created in Sacramento, they are not running to “come together to find

consensus,” they are running against an administration elected by nearly 40 percent of Californians, in an election where Trump flipped 10 California counties.

Are Sacramento Democrats manipulating redistricting not for fairness or representation, but for ambition? Should Prop 50 pass, it will abolish any Republican representation conservative Californians voted for to protect themselves from Sacramento’s insatiable appetite to grow government and raise taxes.

Prop 50 is being sold as “reform,” but in practice, it looks like a power play to carve out congressional seats for insiders like Rivas.

“Prop 50 does not put the Speaker in a new district, and he has enthusiastically endorsed Rep. Lofgren for re-election. In fact, Prop 50 makes District 18 less Blue and includes areas Speaker Rivas has never represented. He’s 100% focused on his job, he’s not running for any other office, and his priority is stopping Trump’s power grab,” wrote Rivas’ Campaign Spokesperson Elizabeth Ashford in an email to The Globe.

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