

WEEKLY UPDATE

September 22,- 29 2025

“If you believe in something, you need to have the courage to fight for those ideas – not run away from them and silence them”.

Those are the words of Charlie Kirk. That some pathetic fool thought assassinating him would somehow silence him is folly. Charlie Kirks thoughts and words have been amplified thousands of times since that evil deed.

The assigation has been covered and commented on by every news outlet, talk show host and politician in the country. There is nothing more that we can add to the discussion other than passing along our thoughts and prayers to his family.

What we can offer is an organization that stands for truth and transparency and gives freedom loving people an opportunity to stay informed along with a voice to advocate for common sense government.

Small grassroots nonprofit organizations like Cattlemen, the Chamber of Commerce, Homebuilders, Realtors, the Farm Bureau and countless others are

critical sources of information that members need to engage with government to keep the bureaucracy from destroying our businesses and our rights.

Unlike most of the modern media, small grassroots organizations aren't interested in having hundreds of thousands of followers, they aren't trying to go viral with every post and they don't rely on clickbait or sensationalism to drive up their advertising rates. Instead, they offer detailed information on important issues that may not be sensational but could be life changing .

At COLAB, we work to keep you appraised of the important activities of our county government that impact your industry, business and your private life. We try to give you tools that help you fight for what you believe. If Charlie Kirks assassination troubles you, if you feel the need to stand a little taller in your beliefs as a result, and if you want to be a more effective fighter for what you believe, then we welcome your participation.

An Audit Add On - Added On

Early in the public comment portion of the September 9 San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors meeting, one commenter inquired about why the county was looking at spending an additional \$315,000 to audit the County Health Department after it had just received an audit report of that department a few months ago.

Item 6 read as follows:

Request to 1) approve Amendment No.1 to the contract with KPMG LLP, for the Health Agency to expand the scope of services, extend term of agreement, and increase the total compensation in the amount of \$315,000, allowing KPMG consultants to implement selected recommendations as outlined in the recommendation from their organizational review of the Health Agency; and 2) approve a corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$315,000 from General Fund Talent Development Reserve Designation to FC 104 - Administrative Office, by 4/5 vote.

As it turns out, the department seems to having serious problems with billing which has resulted in some losses of revenue from the state. Explanations were vague, but hope was expressed that the additional audit will pay for itself through improved performance. The item passed on a 5-0 vote.

Big Systems Changes Coming... Soon?

If excuses about the Health Department billing systems are needed, the antiquated data management system might fill the need.

Item 25 on the agenda read:

Request to: 1) approve three contracts in the total amount of \$28,242,254, including a 10-year licensing contract with Iron Brick Associates, LLC, a 3-year master services agreement with Cognizant Worldwide Limited, and a contract with Collaborative Solutions LLC to implement the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Replacement Project; 2) delegate authority to the Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector Public Administrator, or their designee, to execute amendments to the agreements; 3) jointly authorize the Human Resources Director and County Administrative Officer to create Position Allocation List (PAL) exceptions and approve the attached list; 4) approve a resolution to amend the PAL for FC 114 – Information Technology to extend a 1.00 FTE Limited Term Business Systems Analyst I/II/III through June 30, 2028; 5) authorize a corresponding budget adjustment for FC 114 – Information Technology in the amount of \$167,454 from FC 266 - Countywide Automation Replacement, by 4/5 vote; and 6) approve a resolution for the new classification of Enterprise Resource Planning System Analyst. (Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector & Information Technology)

A committee of department heads worked for nearly half a year to create a detailed list of all data management needs across the entire county government and match those needs with data management companies offerings. The committee found that SLO county government utilizes over 700 different programs, and most do not work with each other. When data is needed that is covered by more than one county department, often the departments need to create spreadsheets and manually merge the data between two or more departments unable to sync their programs.

Several horror stories were shared to illustrate the need for this new system causing one to wonder how it got so and why it is just now being addressed.

The good news is that the proposed new system will streamline many functions and supposedly make the budget process more transparent.

The not so good news is that it will cost \$28 million and require 18 months and 160,000 labor hours to enact. We hope that it does what is promised and turns out to be a good investment.

Staff recommendation was accepted on a 5-0 vote.

Ag Report: Good But Not Great

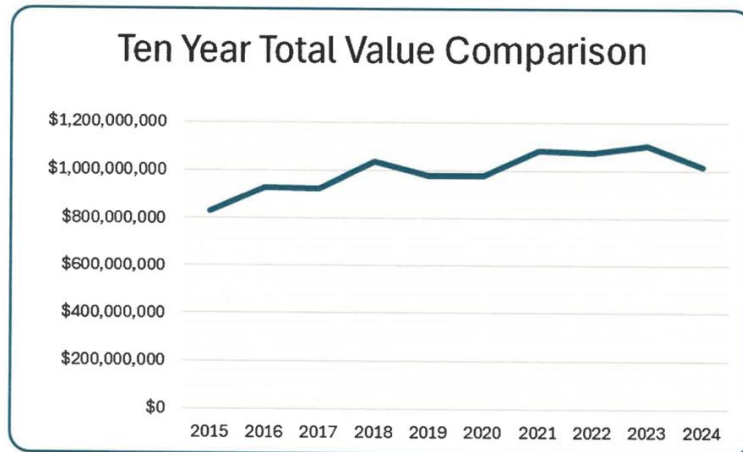
The annual Ag Report was presented to the board by Ag Commissioner Martin Settevendemie with some good news along with a few challenges.

Agriculture is a cornerstone of San Luis Obispo's culture and economy. It provides not only food, but a solid tax base, much needed employment, land management and conservation, ecological stewardship and a strong draw for tourism.

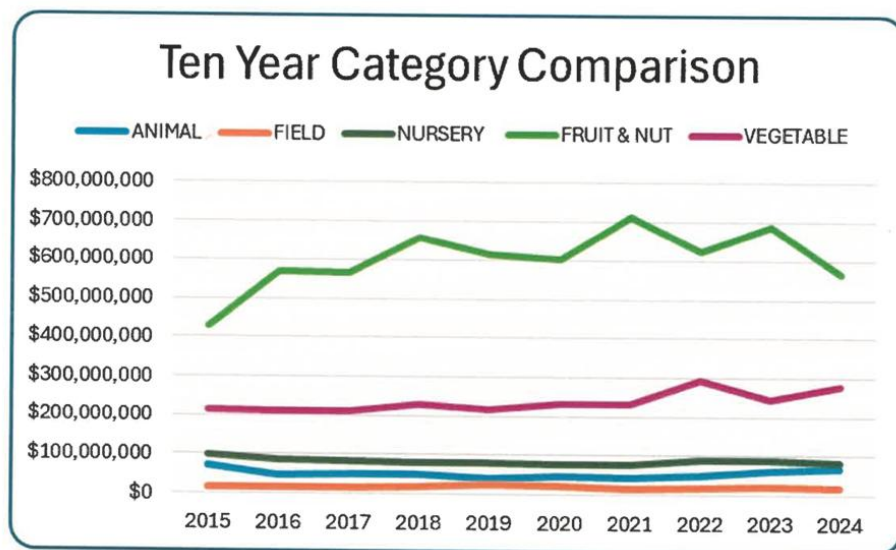
Our diverse county agriculture industries contribute to over \$1 billion in our local economy. Here is a summary of overall performance for last year, followed by a graph that illustrates the ag revenues over the last ten years:

Total Valuation

- 2024 Crop values for SLO County reached a high of \$1,015,855,000 which is an 8% decrease from 2023.
- This is the fifth time that agricultural values have exceeded the billion-dollar mark.
- The field and nursery categories saw a slight decrease, while the fruit and nut sector experienced the only significant decline primarily due to a drop in total wine grape sales.
- The remaining two categories, consisting of animal products and vegetables increased when compared to 2023.



Categorical comparisons tell a fascinating story and underscore the significance of each aspect of agriculture throughout our SLO community:



Top Ten Value Crops

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Value</i>
Strawberries	\$242,370,000
Wine Grapes	\$194,981,000
Cattle and Calves	\$65,531,000
Avocados	\$56,247,000
Broccoli	\$53,758,000
Lettuce, Head	\$35,412,000
Vegetable & Ornamental Transplants	\$32,307,000
Lettuce, Leaf	\$23,153,000
Lemons	\$22,906,000
Cauliflower	\$21,392,000

The report offered detailed figures for each category and goes into deeper detail about performance figures for each crop grown in our county. The full report can be found on the San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measure website.

Following the report, several speakers representing various ag industry groups made comments praising the help and performance of the Ag Department as well as cautioning the Board about rising regulatory costs that are driving up crop prices and, in many cases, putting farmers out of business. San Luis Obispo Farm Bureau Executive Director Paul Clark illustrated that trend with figures from a Cal Poly study that showed an increase of 1300% in regulatory costs over the last decade for lettuce farmers.

It's easy to take our local farmers and ranchers for granted, but a quick review of these numbers should give us all cause to be thankful for their hard work.

Cannabis Conundrum Can't Create Contentment

Do we make it easier for the legal pot guys to do business so that they can better compete with the illegal guys, or do we treat them like any other regulated industry and let the chips fall where they may?

The SLO County Sherriff Department has developed a number of cost cutting measures designed to reduce the fees that cannabis growers pay to cover the costs of compliance. These measures include outsourcing some services while maintaining the strict protocols required for licensure.

Following the detailed explanation from the Sherriff Department that went through the many steps taken to reduce the cost structure so that fees can be reduced, several cannabis growers took the time to make public comment. Each complained that their business is struggling and that the county should eliminate almost all compliance programs.

Tax Measures on the Horizon

Following the agendized business, Supervisor Ortiz Legg requested County Administrative Officer Matthew Pontes do a review of “finance mechanisms” to boost firefighting capabilities in San Luis Obispo County. What this likely means is a sales tax measure. With over 200,000 acres burned so far this year in our county, such a measure might garner enough support to pass. With the June primary just about 10 months away, this would almost certainly be a measure on the November 2026 ballot.

However, it is becoming more likely that there will be another sales tax measure on that ballot for transportation in SLO County. It’s impossible to say how they would impact each other, or even if either would pass. The language and the priorities of each will probably have an impact with voters.

What these two measures do illustrate is the fact that our county revenues are not keeping up with our spending. That we are facing new additional taxes for services that most people would consider basic responsibilities of government says a lot about our county government priorities. Will voters agree with those priorities and be willing to pay more for fire services and/or road maintenance, or will they ask county government to shift spending within the existing \$1 billion budget to cover those items?

Newsom’s Con Game is 6 Weeks Away. Will You Let Him Get Away With It?



Proposition 50 will be on the ballot on November 2. Not only does it cost taxpayers over \$200 million just for the special election, but it also costs voters and our election process integrity and representation. It is Newsom's temper tantrum focused solely on making life difficult for President Trump.

You need to get involved. The No campaign is being led by Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Yard sign and literature are available at both Republican headquarters:

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

[\(805\) 668-2064](#)

Fall Forum Fast Approaching

Don't miss our COLSAB Fall Forum happening on October 2. This informative event will feature three expert panelists discussing energy production in California. The event is free and will include beer, wine, refreshments and appetizers. By the way, did we mention that it's free?

You will hear about the latest policies that impact prices and availability of fuels and electricity, and what is being done to try to restore common sense to the regulation of those industries.

It takes place on October 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Pioneer Museum in Paso Robles. The address is 2010 Riverside Ave. in Paso Robles - ADJACENT to the south end of the Fairgrounds. We would appreciate your RSVP before Sept. 25. Please respond at colabslo@gmail.com or by calling (805) 548-0340. Naturally, please feel free to bring guests.

Last Week

Cannibis Conundrum

It doesn't much matter which side of the isle you are on, cannabis has become a no-win issue. The Board of Supervisors is slated to take up a proposal to outsourcing some of the Sheriff Department cannabis compliance duties on Tuesday.

The debate about legalizing pot centered around two major themes. The first was that "its only weed" which was claimed to be harmless (allegedly sometimes even healthy) and legalizing it would eliminate the troubling and tawdry aspects of the illegal business. The second was that taxing pot would provide tremendous revenues to government.

Well, the illegal side of the pot business seems to be thriving. Legal growers and suppliers are quick to complain that the illegal trade is almost impossible competition. They say the taxes and compliance restrictions, combined with the complications of marketing, drives customers to the illegal side of the business where product might be stronger, cheaper and/or easier to obtain. This is especially true for minors wanting to get stoned like their adult friends.

The revenue side doesn't seem to have ever worked out either. Those who follow the issue closely suggest that revenues to SLO County from the legal side of the industry just about cover the cost of compliance and enforcement. The Board of Supervisors has twice opted to forgo the otherwise automatic tax increase that is supposed to kick in every two years. This in an effort to give the legal operators a break.

Pot is one of those issues where most people have an opinion, but nobody has a workable solution. If the legal side of the business falters, the illegal side will flourish. Too many taxes and regulations are hurting, and more would probably put most out of business. On the other hand, taxpayers should never be put in a position of subsidizing the recreational pot industry.

Below are the suggestions put forth by the sheriff department for reducing the cost of cannabis enforcement.

Cannabis Compliance Team Staffing Changes

- Net reduction of 4.00 FTE for Fiscal Year 2025-26
 - Deletion of 1.00 FTE Sergeant
 - Deletion of 2.00 FTE Sheriff's Deputy Sheriff
 - Deletion of 1.00 FTE Program Manager I/II
 - Deletion of 1.00 FTE Administrative Services Officer I/II
 - + Addition of 1.00 FTE Administrative Services Manager

Additional Considerations

- The Sheriff's Office will use a third-party vendor to conduct background checks, resulting in significant reductions to cannabis business application fees.
- Quarterly compliance monitoring inspections will no longer involve Sheriff's Deputies, resulting in reductions to annual cannabis business fees.
- Fees for minor violations and major violations have been revised to account only for the necessary administrative processes. Full cost recovery will be achieved through real time billing when the costs of a violation exceed the fee amounts.

This is essentially privatizing the regulatory enforcement which, on a purely economic model, makes sense. Private firms generally are better at finding efficiencies and operating on leaner and more cost-effective methods.

However, in this case, some of SLO County's recent scandals come to mind. The Bobby Dayspring bribery scheme and subsequent conviction and federal prison sentence doesn't need to be rehashed in detail. But, neither should it be overlooked.

What needs to be considered is whatever safeguards are built into this newly proposed system to ensure we never have a repeat of the Daysprong incident.

Given Sheriff Parkinson's highly professional approach to law enforcement, one would expect that safeguards have been built into his plan. We hope that the Board of Supervisors explore this question thoroughly.

For better or worse, pot is legal, and it needs to be regulated. Figuring ways to do that without helping the illegal side is confounding. This is one of those issues that most policy makers wish would just go away for a while.

Audit Going Deeper

As reported here recently, SLO County has hired the firm of KPMG to audit several departments of the county government. The first audit was of the San Luis Obispo County Health Department. That audit was completed and reported a couple of months ago, with numerous technical findings and recommendations. Thankfully, no serious breeches were uncovered.

However, it seems that there were sufficient follow up questions to do a contract extension of that audit. On Tuesday, the BoS will consider a recommendation to: **“approve Amendment No.1 to the contract with KPMG LLP, for the Health Agency to expand the scope of services, extend term of agreement, and increase the total compensation in the amount of \$315,000, allowing KPMG consultants to implement selected recommendations as outlined in the recommendation from their organizational review of the Health Agency; and approve a corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$315,000 from General Fund Talent Development”.**

We are very supportive of the audit process going on. Two additional departments will be audited beginning this fall, and that is all good news. We hope that this additional audit of the Health Department is a wise expenditure that will result in more cost effective department operations,

An Energetic Clarification

Last week we announced the exciting COLAB Fall Forum that is taking place on October 2 from 5:30 to 7:30. The subject matter is Energy Production in California, featuring a panel of three great experts. It's free to attend and will be a

great opportunity to mix and mingle with community activists, elected officials and candidates.

A slight mischaracterization was made in that announcement describing the venue location. The event will take place as reported at the Pioneer Museum in Paso Robles. It's a great venue filled with lots of fascinating local history. However, it was previously reported that the Pioneer Museum is on the Fairgrounds/Event Center location, when in fact, it is adjacent to that location.

You won't want to miss this event, and we don't want to send you wandering around the wrong spot, so please take a look at the flyer attached to this newsletter and make note of the address: 2010 Riverside Ave. in Paso Robles ADJACENT to the south end of the Fairgrounds. We would appreciate your RSVP before Sept. 25. Please respond at colabslo@gmail.com or by calling (805) 548-0340



RSVP ASAP to attend this informative Fall Forum at the Pioneer Museum.



The Pioneer Museum is a local gem. We look forward to seeing you there on October 2.

Prop 50 - Newsom Flips The Bird

Proposition 50, Gavin Newsom's temper tantrum that flips the bird at California voters, the California constitution, hundreds of social service provider programs

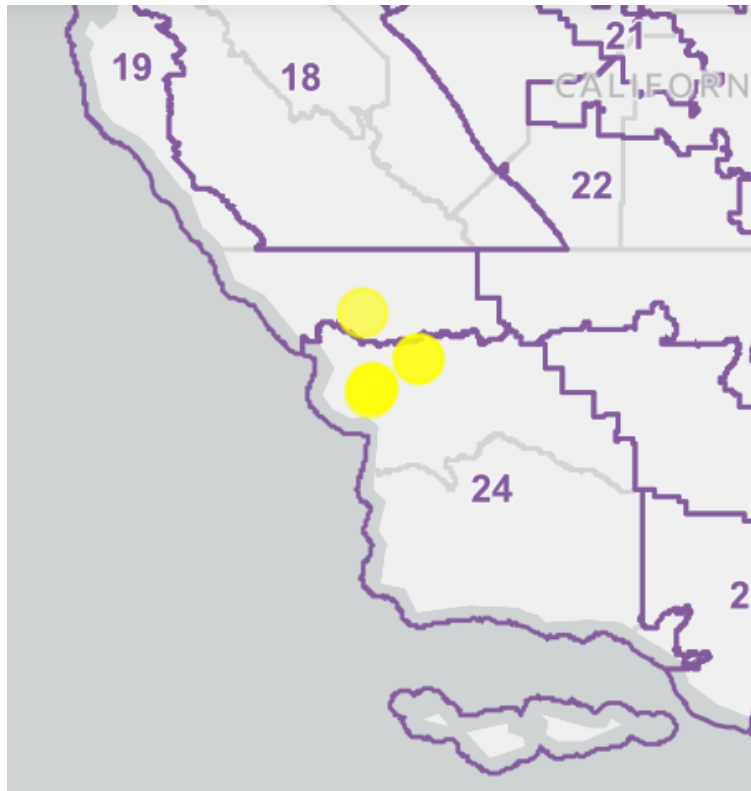
who have experienced budget cuts and the California Redistricting Commission, is proceeding to the Nov 4 statewide ballot.

Newsom freely admits that the proposed new congressional districts are gerrymandered specifically to maximize the number of democrats holding California congressional seats.

Newsom's rotten abuse of power is out of control. He is spending up to a quarter of a billion dollars (from a state budget that is already beyond broke) weaponize our election system because he believes Texas is abusing their election system by doing the same thing. In other words, he thinks Texas is unfairly reapportioning their congressional districts, so he is going to also unfairly reapportion our California districts.

This childish approach will have huge repro cautions for years to come. It sets a terrible precedence that could wipe out years of election reforms. It allows the politicians to draw their own tailor-made districts. It ignores the mandated one person- one vote principle that is supposed to require every district have equal population, and it is an enormous waste of money we simply do not have.

The direct impact to SLO County districts is minimal. Below is an illustration of the proposed new maps in our area:



The yellow dots are the city of San Luis Obispo.

Presumably, District 19 would remain with Congressman Jimmy Panetta, while District 24 would continue to be represented by Congressman Salud Carbajal.

A (somewhat) detailed map of all the proposed districts throughout the state can be found at:

https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_50,_Use_of_Legislative_Congressional_Redistricting_Map_Amendme

As we have stated previously, this will be a campaign of awareness. Newsom's disciples, sycophants and fellow accomplices in this scheme hope that most voters

see this as a technical adjustment that will “even the playing field” in congress. The power abusers hope that most voters ignore, or never learn of, the terrible and unfair aspects of the measure.

Those more respectful of our election system need to get the word out about how wrong this measure is – not just for the Republican voters who are getting robbed of representation, but even the most liberal voter should be outraged that the system is being manipulated with no regard for election integrity.

If this outrageous abuse of power works this year, what is to prevent it from happening any time some Governor decides they want to exert their imperial power and redo the districts again – perhaps to help out a buddy who wants a congressional seat or to upset some federal policy going through congress.

The No on 50 campaign has a website:

[No on Prop 50 – Defend Fair Elections](#)

The No campaign is being led by Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Yard sign and literature are available at both Republican headquarters:

Atascadero

[7357 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422](#) · 3.0 mi

[\(805\) 541-4010](#)

Arroyo Grande

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

[\(805\) 668-2064](#)

The most important thing that voters can do is engage with the campaign to get the word out. Volunteering, writing a check and putting up yard signs are all critical steps,

Don't forget, this awful abuse of power is being done to “save our democracy” and is being run under the banner of “Courage California”. It would be funny if it wasn't so real. The side with the most motivation wins.

November 4 is nine weeks away!!!!

EMERGENT TRENDS - SEE PAGE 17

‘It’s all at stake’: As Prop. 50 fight intensifies, Newsom, partisan influencers rally their bases

Gavin Newsom has hundreds of bills on his desk. These ones are a window into his political future

**COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 19**

Tips to Understanding California’s Energy Economy

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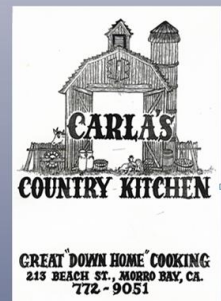
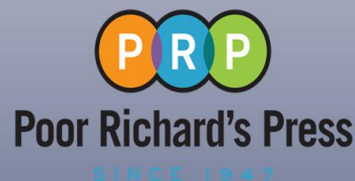
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'It's all at stake': As Prop. 50 fight intensifies, Newsom, partisan influencers rally their bases

September 18, 2025 By Julia Wick and Seema Mehta

- Gov. Newsom and national Democratic leaders rallied support for Proposition 50, which would redraw California's congressional districts to favor Democrats.
- The ballot measure has prompted fierce opposition from the GOP and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- Supporters frame the November vote as essential for democracy, while critics call it a partisan power grab costing taxpayers millions.

The multimillion-dollar jousting over redrawing California's congressional districts to boost Democrats and counter President Trump was on full display in recent days, as both sides courted voters less than a month before ballots begin arriving in mailboxes.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, national Democratic leaders including Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and a slew of political influencers held an hours-long virtual rally Tuesday afternoon, urging Californians to support Proposition 50 in the Nov. 4 special election. Speakers framed the stakes of the ballot measure as nothing short of existential — not just for Democratic interests, but also for democracy.

"It's all at stake. This is a profound and consequential moment in American history. We can lose this republic if we do not assert ourselves and stand tall at this moment and stand guard to this republic and our democracy. I feel that in my bones," Newsom said Tuesday afternoon.

If passed, Proposition 50 would [gerrymander the state's congressional districts](#) to favor Democrats, bolstering the fates of several Democrats in vulnerable swing districts and potentially cost Republicans up to five House seats.

California's congressional districts are drawn by a voter-approved independent commission once a decade after the U.S. census. But Newsom and other state Democrats proposed a rare mid-decade redrawing of the districts to increase the number of Democrats in Congress in response to similar efforts in GOP-led states, notably Texas.

Tuesday's virtual rally, which was emceed by progressive influencer Brian Tyler Cohen, was a cross between an old-school money-raising telethon and new media streaming session. Popular podcasters and YouTubers such as Crooked Media's Jon Favreau and Tommy Vietor (alumni of former President Obama's administration), Ben Meiselas of MeidasTouch and David Pakman shared the screen with political leaders, with an on-screen fundraising thermometer inching higher throughout.

Gavin Newsom has hundreds of bills on his desk. These ones are a window into his political future

September 20, 2025 By Emily Hoeven

Now that Gov. Gavin Newsom has finally acknowledged what even those with the faintest political pulse have long been aware of — [that he's considering a presidential run](#) — there's no question whether his national ambitions are affecting his governance here in California.

The question is: How much?

The next month will be illuminating.

Newsom has until midnight on Oct. 13 to sign or veto about 800 bills that [state lawmakers sent to his desk](#) during this legislative session. Some of these decisions will [tip the governor's hand as to his political thinking](#).

On the one hand, Newsom must prove to dissatisfied Democrats across the country that [he's the fighter they've been looking for](#). At the same time, he's been conspicuous about his desire to court moderates and even conservatives — including by hosting GOP provocateurs on [his "This is Gavin Newsom" podcast](#) and accepting [a gun gifted to him](#) by conservative podcaster Shawn Ryan.

But, sometimes, simultaneously appeasing flaming liberals in Berkeley and diehard conservatives in South Carolina isn't possible. How the governor navigates a handful of the bills on this desk will reveal his read on the nation's culture wars — and his views on the best pathway to the presidency.

Banning law enforcement masks: As masked Immigration Enforcement and Customs officers descended on Los Angeles this summer, Newsom denounced the raids and [reveled in the opportunity to depict himself as Trump's foil.](#)

He dared the president's border czar to arrest him and [sued the administration](#) for federalizing the California National Guard and sending Marines into the city. (A recent U.S. Supreme Court [ruling gave Trump the upper hand in that legal battle.](#))
[Senate Bill 627](#) by Democratic state Sens. Scott Wiener of San Francisco, Jesse Arreguin of Berkeley, Sasha Renée Pérez of Alhambra (Los Angeles County) and [Aisha Wahab of Hayward](#) will test how far Newsom is willing to go in his offensive against federal immigration agents.

Tips to Understanding California's Energy Economy

EDWARD RING

Director, Water and Energy Policy



Californians for Energy and Water Abundance
September 15, 2025

California's raw energy inputs total about 7,200 TBTUs per year. "TBTU" stands for "trillion British Thermal Units." Invented nearly two centuries ago by engineers who wanted a standard unit of energy to measure the power of steam locomotives, the BTU is defined as the amount of energy needed to heat one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit. In 2024, by comparison, the whole U.S. consumed 87,000 TBTUs, and the whole world consumed 561,000 TBTUs.

The other essential energy terrain is based on measurements of electricity, expressed at the macro scale by gigawatt-hours (GWH) and terawatt-hours (TWH). California consumed 281 terawatt-hours of electricity (281,000 gigawatt-hours) in 2023, compared to 4,634 TWH for the whole U.S. and 31,256 TWH for the whole world. Note California's share of U.S. TBTU consumption is 8.3 percent, but we Californians only represent 6.1 percent of the total U.S. TWH consumption. In both cases, our per capita consumption is lower than our 11.5 percent share of the U.S. population. That is mostly

attributed to our good weather, although “some credit California’s strict energy efficiency standards.”

An energy flow chart from Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, updated through 2022, provides one of the most cogent glimpses available into the journey energy takes from its raw form into its final end-use. There are two main takeaways from this chart. First, the fact that they estimate only 36 percent, barely one-third of those 7,200 TBTUs of raw energy input, is realized in the form of energy services, for example: interior space heating and cooling, water treatment and pumping, industrial processes, light, computations, communications, and horsepower. The rest, 4,600 TBTUs per year, are lost in the process of refining, electric power generation, transmission, mechanical losses to heat and friction, electricity losses in the process of battery charges and discharges, and so on.

The second big takeaway from viewing California’s energy flow chart is the mix of raw energy inputs. The most up-to-date information we have is from 2023, which shows that 30 percent of California’s incoming fuel was natural gas, 50 percent was petroleum, and the other 20 percent came from a combination of nuclear, hydroelectric, biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind.

Which brings us to one of the most challenging areas to grasp: the relationship of electrical production to overall energy use. The reason this matters so much is because the State of California wishes to electrify the state’s entire transportation and residential sectors. According to the LLNL energy flowchart for California, transportation consumed 2,913 TBTUs of energy in 2022, and 2,301 of those were lost in the process of oil refining, distribution, and the relatively low efficiency of the internal combustion engine.

This fact, that 79 percent of California’s raw petroleum input devoted to transportation is lost before it is converted into motion, illustrates the potential of electrification. Modern EVs convert about 80 percent of their electrical input into horsepower, even after taking into account the charge/discharge efficiency of the onboard battery and the efficiency of the electric motor. But the solution is not to subsidize EVs, nor to drive California’s oil industry into terminal decline. If the state weren’t bent on destroying California’s refineries, they could make investments in improving their efficiency.

Similarly, if the state weren't attempting to outlaw the sale of new gasoline powered cars, we might preserve the possibility for advanced hybrid technologies to compete even as EV technology continues its rapid progress. We face the same dilemma with natural gas power generation: modern natural gas powerplants are on track to achieve efficiencies in excess of 70 percent, twice what most of California's aging fleet of natural gas powerplants can deliver. If they weren't being regulated into oblivion, they could be retrofit.

Here's the equation that connects units of electrical energy (GWH and TWH) with units of thermal energy (TBTUs). The equivalent of 1,000 TBTUs is 293 terawatt-hours. This means that California's 7,200 TBTUs per year of raw energy inputs, if expressed as electricity, would equal 2,100 terawatt-hours.

And here's the trillion dollar question. How much room for gains in efficiency are there, if today only 36 percent of California's raw energy consumption is realized in the form of end user energy services? Imagine if the state's current end user energy consumption of 2,600 TBTUs per year were completely electrified. That would be 762 terawatt-hours. Now suppose these 762 TWH of usable electricity were converted from raw energy inputs in processes that were two-thirds efficient instead of one-third efficient. That would mean that we would only need 3,900 TBTUs (equivalent to 1,154 TWH) of raw fuel input to realize the goal of a super-efficient, all-electric economy in California. Theoretically, therefore, electrification could reduce California's required raw energy input by nearly half without sacrificing any end user energy services.

But where is the line between theory and fantasy? Is over 1,000 TWH per year of electricity generation feasible, when today California's in-state electricity production is only 215 TWH, with only 19 percent of that coming from solar and 6 percent coming from wind? California's official stated goal for electricity production by 2045 is "only" 500 TWH. These are tough numbers to hit with pure renewables in less than 20 years. Equally daunting is the prospect of cost-effectively rolling out electrification to every sector of the economy. What Governor Newsom and the state legislature is coming to terms with right now is how much of a future role they shall restore for conventional sources of energy.

We can still lead the world, but we would be best served in that aspiration by doing things the rest of the world will enthusiastically emulate. That would suggest competition, not subsidies, and open technologies, not restrictions and

mandates, might best deliver the abundance and affordability that we all profess to care about so much.

Edward Ring is the Director of Water and Energy Policy at the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013. Ring is the author of Fixing California: Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism (2021) and The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California (2022).

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202-224-3841 DC

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Representative Salud Carbal

202-225-3601 DC

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State Senator John Laird
916-651-4017 Sacramento
805-549-3784 District
senator.laird@senate.ca.gov

State Assembly Member Dawn Addis
916-319-2030 Sacramento
805-549-3001 District
assemblymember.addis@assembly.ca.gov

SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson
805-781-4338 District
bgibson@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Heather Moreno
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hmoreno@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg
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dortizlegg@co.slo.ca.us

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MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 - \$249 ☐ \$ _____ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000 ☐ \$ _____

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(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

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