

Government Relations

Orange County 2nd Supervisorial Seat Special Election Date Confirmed

On Monday, the date for the special election for, now Congresswoman, Michelle Steel's seat was set for March 9th. The Orange County Democratic Party has officially endorsed Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley, while the Orange County GOP endorsed former State Senator John Moorlach. Huntington Beach councilman Mike Posey along with other local elected officials have also filled paperwork to run for this seat.

The winner of the seat will serve the rest of the term that ends in 2022 and will represent the cities of Costa Mesa, Cypress, Huntington Beach, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Seal Beach, Stanton and portions of Fountain Valley and Buena Park.

This is one of the many special elections happening after the November 3rd General elections. The special election for Senate District 30th in South Los Angeles has been confirmed for March 2nd with Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager being one of the candidates to have filled paperwork.

Our civic engagement team will keep you updated on both the SD 30th and OC 2nd Supervisorial seat special elections.

Federal

- The House is set to vote today to impeach President Trump for the second time. The single article of impeachment charges Trump with "incitement of insurrection" following last week's Capitol breach. With the House's Democratic majority and the votes of at least five Republican members who have said they will join the impeachment effort, the measure is certain to pass. That will make Trump the first US President to be impeached twice. Just like before, the article will then move to the Senate.
- The Trump Administration is making changes to its COVID-19 distribution, in order to have states speed up the rollout and get more individuals vaccinated. The first change calls on states to vaccinate all individuals 65 years of age or older, and those with underlying health conditions. More info [here](#).
 - Starting in two weeks, vaccines will be distributed to states based on the number of over 65 year-olds who live there and by the pace of vaccine administration reported by states.
 - Senior officials also announced they would stop holding second doses of the vaccines in reserve and instead ship more doses to states right away.

- More info [here](#).
- Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) and Anthony G. Brown (D-Md.) have introduced a bill on Tuesday that will impose a \$1,000 fine on members who refuse to wear masks while in the Capitol complex. This comes after numerous lawmakers refused to wear masks while sheltering with other colleagues during last week's Capitol riots. Several lawmakers have tested positive after Wednesday's events. More info [here](#).
- The CDC will approve a new anti-pandemic measure that will require air travelers headed to U.S. must show a proof of negative COVID-19 test. This test is to be taken three days prior to arrival and will take effect on January 26th. More info [here](#).
- President-elect Joe Biden is set to unveil his COVID-19 vaccination plan this Thursday. It is expected that the nationwide distribution effort his number one priority.

State

- On Monday, Governor Newsom announced 2.5 million vaccine doses have been shipped to California, though just 784,000 shots had been administered as of this past weekend.
- Governor Newsom revealed his budget proposal – a \$227.2 billion budget prioritizing those impacts by COVID-19.
 - \$4.4 Billion budget is allocated towards COVID-19 relief. \$2B will go to testing, \$473M in contact tracing, and \$372M to vaccines. This is in addition to anticipated federal support that is expected to be \$1.7B for testing/tracing and \$350M for vaccine distribution.
 - The Budget proposes to implement the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative to an effort to reduce variation and complexity in the state's Medi-Cal program, manage member risk and need and improve outcomes through payment reform.
 - Governor Newsom also proposed a budget of \$94.8M for telehealth while maintaining and expanding flexibilities authorized during COVID-19 and have remote patient monitoring as a new benefit.
 - More info [here](#) and [here](#)
- Governor has directed the Drafting Guidelines Workgroup and Community Vaccine Advisory Committee meeting to evaluate new federal guidance to begin vaccinating people age 65 and over and those under 65 with underlying conditions.

Local

Los Angeles County

- Los Angeles County announced on Monday that all healthcare industry workers can now receive vaccinations, including staffers at urgent and primary care clinics, research laboratories, pharmacies and dentist offices.
 - The announcement follows last week's guidance from the state and opens up the eligibility list from the highest priority group. That pool includes healthcare workers in hospitals and nursing homes that deal directly with infected or high-risk patients. Officials expanded the list to speed up the vaccine rollout and ensure that leftover vaccine doses are not wasted.
 - More info [here](#)

- Dodger Stadium will begin the transition from coronavirus tests to vaccinations this week. Once the site is up and running, city officials estimate up to 12,000 people will be vaccinated per day. More info [here](#).
- Los Angeles County officials are recommending some residents to wear masks inside their homes, to mitigate spread to vulnerable residents when those they live with work outside the home or go out to shop or perform other essential tasks. More info [here](#)

Orange County

- Disneyland will become a COVID-19 vaccination site this week, per Orange County officials. Other super sites are Petco Park in San Diego and Cal Expo in Sacramento. More info [here](#).

Infection Prevention Medical Director, Sherrill Brown, MD

- Dr. Brown will be providing the flu vaccine prize to the winning clinic in December.
- All of our clinics should have received the high dose for the flu vaccine for senior patients.
- It is possible that the height of the flu season will be later in the spring than what we typically see.
- Please keep influenza in the back of your mind when evaluating for COVID-19 or strep. If someone has fever, headaches, muscle aches, cough, runny nose – these are symptoms for the flu (COVID-19, as well), but we want to ensure that we are running a rapid flu in addition to the COVID-19 PCR. In the note for the visit, please indicate rapid flu in addition to COVID-19 testing so that they can run both tests.
- Please look at the COVID-19 alert update for answers to questions that may have been submitted.
- If you received your vaccine through the county that is great. Please return back to the county, or where you obtained the vaccine originally for the second dose. This is important to ensure that you are getting the same type of vaccine. If you received your vaccine outside of AltaMed, please take a picture and send it to Employee Health at employeehealth@altamed.org. If for some reason you are unable to obtain your second dose at the same place where you received your first dose, please contact Sabrina Kosok, skosok@altamed.org (additional information will be forthcoming, if the contact changes). AltaMed currently has the Moderna vaccine only, but if you received the Pfizer vaccine and are unable to obtain the second dose please contact us as well, and we will contact out community partners.

Human Resources, Director Talent Management, Steven Satzger

- Reminder to people who report to the office and go through the screening process. Please verify that the name of the person that pops up is actually you.
- A communication from Veronica Gomez was sent on [Monday](#) to all leaders announcing the launch of the 2020 Performance Reviews, including key dates and training resources. Please note that the self-review window is one week: January 25 to 29. Please encourage your teams to proactively carve out the time needed for completion, and set aside your own time for preparation, as this is the foundation of the entire process.
- Benefits:

- If you are adding a dependent to your coverage, all supporting documentation must be uploaded to PlanSource by [January 31](#). Non-submission of supporting documentation will result in termination of coverage.
- If you are adding or increasing your voluntary life insurance, your Evidence of Insurability form is also due [January 31](#). See the Benefits section of Town Square for more information.
- If you wish to participate in the Health or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) or Medical Opt out, you must actively re-enroll by [January 31](#). Please contact the Benefits team for more information