



Legislative Update from Austin Webster - Principal | W Strategies LLC - June 2022

June wraps up the end of a busy season for the Legislature, as leaders in both houses conclude budget negotiations with the Governor and make the final push for legislative proposals ahead of the Summer Recess.

The final budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year tops \$300 billion in spending and came with a \$97.5 billion surplus that has led to a considerable amount of one-time funding. The Legislature and Governor struck a deal late last week to pass a final budget and both the Assembly and Senate are expected to vote on the final budget bills on Thursday before departing Sacramento for the month of July. Below are a few highlights from the final agreement:

- 6.56% Cost of Living Adjustment
- \$600 Million Base Increase
- \$650 Million One-Time Block Grant
- \$834 Million One-Time Facilities and Instructional Equipment
- Increases Apprenticeship Reimbursement Rates
- Allows For Three Year Budgeting on Apprenticeship Programs

The Legislature will likely have additional action when they return in August, as part of the typical budget finalization process. This is associated with final expenditure reporting due at the end of June and lingering corporate tax revenue payments. These changes will be minor and are normal procedure at this point in the fiscal year.

In addition to the budget, the Newsom Administration, along with California's other statewide electeds, has been largely focused on its response to last week's Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which reversed the decision in *Roe v Wade* and the more than 50 years of precedent establishing a right to privacy. California, along with Oregon and Washington, is preparing to become a sanctuary state for those traveling from states where abortion services and reproductive healthcare are not as accessible. Beyond the implications for women's rights, the Dobbs ruling has opened the door to a series of other legal challenges related to the LGBTQ+ community, healthcare privacy, and data privacy that are likely to be brought to light in coming months.

In Washington, Congress continues its regular business of developing a budget while also contending with the ongoing investigation into the January 6 Insurrection at the Capitol. The Select Committee responsible for the investigation has now held a handful of major hearings on the matter, releasing new information on the organizing of the riot and the actions of then-President Donald Trump and his staff. Democrats continue to call for criminal charges in the matter while Republicans have taken to labeling the hearings as political theatre in an election year.

Indeed, the Midterms are already upon us and November will be here before you know it. Expect campaign ads and political posturing to ramp up as we head into the late summer and early fall. W Strategies will provide an update on the campaigns, and their impact to our work, once the election results have been finalized.

CCCAOE continues to monitor and engage at both the state and federal level. If you are interested in participating on our Advocacy Committee or want to learn more about how you can be a part of our advocacy efforts, contact your Regional Vice President.