

**AGENDA**

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**Agenda Item No. 3:**  
**State Update**

TO: Members, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Committee

FROM: Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate  
Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate

RE: December 2012 State Update

DATE: January 2, 2013

The legislature remains on their fall recess and will return on January 7, 2013 to resume their business. On December 3, 2012 the 2013-14 legislative class was sworn-in, now they begin to get settled into their new offices, hire the necessary staff and begin to focus on their legislative packages. While committee chairs have been assigned in the Assembly we are still waiting on the complete list of committee chairs in the Senate. We anticipate that we will see the make-up of the committee membership in late January of 2013.

As we have mentioned in our last update, there are 39 new members in the legislature, which is the largest turn-over the state has seen since 1935. What this means to you is that we have a large number of members that we need to educate on issues that are important to counties and specifically Santa Barbara County. We have a strong delegation, but we did lose one Senator, so we went from four members to three.

We have already begun to meet with the members of our delegation to discuss our legislative platform for the 2013-14 session, while we recognize it has not been officially adopted by the board, we did want them to be aware of our priorities. Our new Senator, Hannah-Beth Jackson also has new staff. We have long standing relationships with both her chief of staff and her legislative director, so we are pleased to see them join her staff.

We also wanted to make you aware that Assembly Member Achadjian was named the Assembly Local Government Chair, which is really good news for us. He was the only republican to get a committee chair in the Assembly, which speaks to his relationship with the Speaker.

The legislature will begin to shut down on December 21, 2012 and reopen on January 7, 2013, in an effort to give staff time with their families. Given this time off, we don't anticipate that there will be a lot of action until they return in January from their recess. Many of the new members are still trying to get their offices set up both in the Capitol and in their district offices; once they get those people into place we will begin to see a lot more activity.

It is also important to note that the Governor is scheduled to release his budget on January 10, 2013. His State of the State should be that following week. The legislative counsel deadline is January 25 and the bill introduction deadline is February 22, 2013. These are all key dates because they are hard deadlines.

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We have begun to read any bills that have been introduced and will keep you updated on issues that affect the County. As always, should you or your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.