



Advocacy Update

Receive & File

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Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Policy & Innovation

Issue:

Update on state and federal advocacy activities.

Request:

Receive

Recommendation for Board:

None, this is for information only.

Recommendation for Committee:

None, this item is for information only.

Background:

The November 2024, General Election was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Federal election results include the re-election of former President Donald Trump, Senate Republicans taking control of the US Senate, and Republicans maintaining control of the US House of Representatives. Federal races within the SACOG region saw the re-election of Doug LaMalfa (District 1,) Kevin Kiley (District 3), Mike Thompson (District 4), Tom McClintock (District 5), Ami Bera (District 6), and Doris Matsui (District 7). Within California, Adam Schiff was elected to both the unexpired and full term of the Senate seat left by Dianne Feinstein, currently filled by Laphonza Butler.

At the state level, the election ushered in over one quarter of new members in the Legislature. Despite the political rightward shift, with at least a couple of legislative seats flipped from Democrat to Republican and more races still undecided at the time of this writing, Democrats continue to retain a supermajority in both the State Assembly and State Senate. There are two new SACOG legislative delegate members elected to the Legislature: Christopher Cabaldon has been elected in the Senate (Senate District 3) and Maggie Krell in the Assembly (Assembly District 6). The results of the state ballot measures are mixed. Voters approved \$20 billion in general obligation bonds for school facilities and climate and natural resource purposes, but efforts to reduce voter approval thresholds for local bond measures failed.

Discussion/Analysis:

With the election of former President Donald Trump, and the transition in Congress, much of the focus over the next month will be placed on the wrap up of the 118th Congress, leadership selections, and cabinet appointments. Congress will need to pass a year-end spending package or a new Continuing Resolution to continue funding the government beyond December 20, 2024. Additional focus will be placed on Cabinet appointments. During the committee meeting, our federal lobbyists, Capitol Transportation Consulting and Pavluchuk & Associates, will provide an overview of federal election results with a focus on what these changes in Washington, D.C. mean for transportation and SACOG priorities. Attachment A, the Federal Policy Monthly Report, provides a high-level overview of the changes happening nationally.

State business is focused on election results and the state budget. Given the result of the federal elections and a slew of new legislators coming in, we will see how that might alter California's focus and how the state will react to the federal government in the coming months as we get ready for the start of the two-year session. Our state lobbyists, Politico Group, provided more information at the committee meeting. Attachment B contains the state lobbyist's report.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Included in the Overall Work Program/Budget

List of Attachments:

Attachment A- Federal Advocacy Report;
Attachment B- State Advocacy Report