

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

RECESS JOURNAL NO. 44

FINAL RECESS

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Friday, October 2, 2026

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 59, the following Assembly Journal for the 2025–26 Regular Session was printed while the Assembly was in Final Recess.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

By unanimous consent, the following committees were permitted to meet:

Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color, on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 4 p.m., at the Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice, 1150 35th Ave., Oakland 94601;

Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies, to convene jointly with the Select Committee on Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., at the Westlake Village City Hall, 31200 Oak Crest Dr., Westlake Village 91361.

REPORTS

The following letters of transmittal were presented by the Chief Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal:

California State Auditor

2025-128

September 29, 2026

*The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Assembly
of the Legislature of California
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California*

Members of the Assembly: As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, my office conducted an audit of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), and our assessment focused on LADPH's response to the conditions near the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. In general, we determined that LADPH's actions in response to these conditions have been incomplete and that establishing internal safeguards could help LADPH improve future responses to health hazards.

LADPH could not demonstrate to us that it had consistently reviewed specific air quality data and did not communicate proactively with the communities surrounding the landfill about the data. LADPH also lacks an up-to-date understanding of community members' health conditions because it has generally stopped collecting or receiving symptom reports from community members. We determined that LADPH took nearly two years to direct the landfill operator to provide funding for temporary relocation and that LADPH could not provide a sufficient reason for why it did not act sooner.

Because LADPH did not comprehensively or consistently communicate relevant information to residents, those residents may have lacked a clear understanding of the steps the department was taking to respond. LADPH's community engagement activities had limitations that hindered their effectiveness, and LADPH did not respond effectively to certain community requests.

Our report includes recommendations to improve LADPH's ongoing response to conditions at Chiquita Canyon Landfill and ways to incorporate safeguards to help ensure that future health hazard responses are consistent throughout Los Angeles County.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARKS
California State Auditor

Above report referred to the Committee on Health.

California State Auditor

I2026-1

October 1, 2026

*The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Assembly
of the Legislature of California
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California*

Members of the Assembly: The California State Auditor, as authorized by the California Whistleblower Protection Act, presents this report summarizing some of the investigations of alleged improper governmental activities that my office has recently completed. This report details nine substantiated allegations involving several state agencies. Our investigations found waste, inefficiency, misuse of state resources, contracting violations, and other improper governmental activities. Our findings include approximately \$885,000 that state agencies have wasted, misused, did not collect, or spent on purchases that they did not properly advertise.

For instance, an agency cost the State an estimated \$107,000 when it did not reduce leave balances for two employees who took leaves of absence. We determined that this error originated in the agency's lack of adequate controls. In another case, an agency enacted a poorly conceived plan to address two employees' accounts receivable, delaying the agency's collection of over \$33,000 from the employees for more than a year. We also found that an agency did not advertise solicitations for nearly \$624,000 worth of Non-IT goods, so the agency could not ensure that it received the most competitive prices for its purchases. An employee at another agency cost the State \$69,000 by misusing a state vehicle and state time for his personal commute.

State agencies must report to my office any corrective or disciplinary action that they have taken in response to recommendations that we have made. Their first reports are due within 60 days after we notify them of the improper activity, after which they report monthly until they have completed the corrective action.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARKS
California State Auditor

Above report referred to the Committee on Labor and Employment.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following signing messages from the Governor were received and ordered printed in the Journal:

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1687

Governor's Office, Sacramento

September 25, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1687, which, beginning January 1, 2031, establishes a six-year driver's license suspension for an individual convicted of a DUI that caused bodily injury after four or more prior qualifying impaired-driving convictions. After serving the first year of the suspension and meeting specified requirements, the individual may apply for restricted driving privileges with an ignition interlock device.

Repeat impaired driving poses an unacceptable danger to Californians. I appreciate the author's career-long commitment to making our roads safer, both as a former California Highway Patrol officer and throughout his service in the Legislature. This measure strengthens sanctions for some of the most serious repeat offenders by extending the period during which they may not drive and requiring an ignition interlock device before they may obtain restricted driving privileges.

At the same time, it is critical that California establish a comprehensive, long-term framework for DUI sanctions so that targeted measures like this one can be incorporated into a clear and consistent system. My administration worked with the author this year toward including these provisions in the broader framework proposed by Assembly Bill 1830, which ultimately did not advance from the Senate Floor.

Because this measure does not become operative until 2031, the Legislature should return to that broader effort next year and establish an updated framework. As part of that work, the Legislature should determine how these provisions fit within an updated structure for suspension periods and ignition interlock, treatment, and restricted-license requirements.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1349

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1349, which would prohibit most speculative ticket sales and restrict deceptive websites and advertising practices related to ticket sales.

I share the author's concern with problematic practices in both the primary and secondary ticket-selling market, including the excessive use of speculative sales, the imposition of junk fees, and deceptive and misleading advertising. This measure, however, appears to take an uneven approach, allowing select ticket sellers to avoid certain obligations under the bill. While there may be good reasons for exempting certain sellers from the bill's provisions, such a carve-out deserves further discussion, and I encourage the author to continue to work with stakeholders to refine this policy in the coming year.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 817

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly and Senate:

I am signing Assembly Bill 817 and Senate Bill 716.

These bills respond to the devastating 2026 cold storage facility fire in Boyle Heights and its prolonged effects on the surrounding community. The residents of Boyle Heights endured weeks of smoke, odors, pests, and other serious health and safety impacts. These measures provide additional tools to support affected residents, promote accountability, deter conduct that threatens public health and safety, and strengthen preparedness so that communities are better protected going forward.

However, these measures will expand beyond Los Angeles County and apply more broadly throughout the state beginning July 1, 2028. Additional attention is needed to ensure these policies are appropriately tailored for broader implementation, account for differences among facilities, and avoid unintended or disproportionate consequences. I implore the Legislature and stakeholders to continue to refine these requirements in follow-up legislation next year.

I am also mindful that Assembly Bill 817 creates an incident-specific tax exclusion outside the annual budget process. California has provided similar relief for settlement claims arising from catastrophic wildfires and other serious environmental and public health incidents. As I have stated previously, proposals affecting the General Fund should generally be considered through the budget process. However, this principle must be balanced against the need for a timely response. Given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this disaster, I am approving this targeted relief.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1901

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1901, which requires manufacturers of children's diapers to list all intentionally added ingredients on their website and requires packages of children's diapers to include a list of all intentionally added ingredients.

While I support the author's goal to increase transparency for parents purchasing diapers, this bill does not include the protections for confidential business information present in previous ingredient disclosure bills. An absence of flexibility around proprietary information could put manufacturers in a difficult position with their suppliers or lead to public disclosure of legitimate confidential business information. I encourage the Department of Toxic Substances Control to initiate its rulemaking authority under this bill to clarify these issues.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 2054

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2054, which would broaden the circumstances under which eligible employees can take Paid Family Leave for a qualifying military exigency, to include not just foreign but also domestic military deployments.

This measure will support families of service members who are activated for stateside missions, ordered to extended training, or mobilized as part of the National Guard or Reserve. Unfortunately, the implementation deadline of July 2028 is infeasible. Any expansion of Paid Family Leave must be balanced with our combined, multi-year process and information technology modernization effort, EDDNext, that will improve overall access to the benefit programs that the Employment Development Department (EDD) administers. Changes to the Paid Family Leave program like what is contemplated by this measure will disrupt EDDNext and lead to significant delays, to the detriment of those relying on EDD's benefit systems during their most challenging moments.

I am directing EDD to work with the Legislature next year to address this issue.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 2050

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2050, which strengthens long-term financial planning for homeowners associations (HOAs).

Common interest developments rely on associations to maintain shared roofs, utilities, paving, and other major components. These maintenance obligations and costs already exist, but when HOAs do not adequately prepare for them, homeowners are often left facing sudden, costly special assessments. Those obligations do not disappear when they are deferred as they can result in aging buildings left unrepaired or costs shifted to the families who purchase homes later. This bill addresses that risk through a practical framework, operating on the principle that it is more sustainable for households to absorb gradual, predictable contributions over time than to face large, unexpected bills during an emergency.

Beginning in 2032, this bill requires associations to use updated reserve studies to identify expected maintenance costs and make regular contributions toward them. Importantly, the legislation does not require associations to fully fund all future liabilities today. Instead, it establishes a consistent process for building reserves incrementally, ensuring funds are available when major repairs become due. Sound reserve practices can also help preserve access to conventional mortgage financing, supporting both current homeowners and future buyers.

If an association projects a reserve shortfall, it must prioritize a portion of its annual budget for reserves before relying on a special assessment. This encourages boards to manage costs and address known obligations gradually, while preserving existing homeowner protections when a larger assessment is necessary. This approach carefully balances the near-term cost of responsible planning against the greater risk of sudden, unpredictable expenses later.

Recognizing that this transition requires careful preparation, the bill's 2032 operative date gives associations time to adjust their financial strategies responsibly. Moving forward, the Legislature should closely monitor implementation to ensure these new standards successfully balance both long-term maintenance obligations and homeowner affordability.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1294

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1294.

This bill establishes a pilot program in Alameda, Sacramento, and San Francisco counties that extends the property tax welfare exemption to qualifying newly constructed rental housing or commercial to residential conversions serving moderate-income households. Eligible properties must maintain affordability requirements for at least 55 years, while the exemption is limited to 15 years.

Expanding housing opportunities for moderate-income Californians is an important goal, particularly in communities where these households increasingly struggle to afford rent. At the same time, rents deemed affordable to moderate-income households may, in some communities, be at or near market rents. Because property tax exemptions represent a significant public investment, the value of the exemption should be reasonably balanced against the affordability benefit delivered to residents.

The bill requires the State Board of Equalization to report the number of participating properties and the assessed value exempted. But the collection of additional information on exempt units, rents, and property tax savings could support a broader evaluation of whether the pilot reduced rents, enabled projects that otherwise would not have proceeded, generated taxable value from nonexempt portions of participating developments, and increased moderate-income housing production.

I encourage the Legislature, the State Board of Equalization, participating counties, and housing providers to identify ways to strengthen data collection throughout the pilot period. Consideration also should be given to whether further clarification of what constitutes newly constructed housing would support clear and consistent administration by participating county assessors. These efforts will help ensure that any consideration of extending or expanding the exemption is informed by a clear understanding of its fiscal, administrative, and affordability outcomes.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 40

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 40, which requires a full Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before a lead agency may grant discretionary approval for a large-scale coal handling, storage, or export facility.

Over the course of my administration, I have worked with the Legislature to enact targeted CEQA reforms for projects California urgently needs, including housing, clean energy, water resilience, and infrastructure that advances our climate goals. Those reforms are tailored to ensure CEQA operates appropriately for the particular project types, public benefits, and safeguards at issue. Consistent with that precedent, AB 40 addresses a separate, narrow circumstance by ensuring that environmental review of a very large coal facility reflects the specific operation and use proposed.

CEQA does not regulate commodities in the abstract—it requires review of specific projects that are actually proposed. This bill ensures large-scale coal facilities receive that review.

For these reasons, I am signing Assembly Bill No. 40.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bills Nos. 1331 and 1883

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1331 and Assembly Bill 1883, which regulate how employers can use surveillance tools in the workplace. Assembly Bill 1331 restricts the use of surveillance tools in restrooms, and Assembly Bill 1883 prohibits the use of these tools to collect a worker's neural data or predict a worker's emotional state.

As surveillance technology becomes increasingly sophisticated, it is appropriate to establish guardrails over how employers use it on their employees. Bad-actor employers can now collect vast amounts of granular, personal information, leaving employees vulnerable to manipulative or abusive practices.

However, more work remains. I encourage the Legislature to refine these two measures to address ambiguities and possible unintended consequences. For example, Assembly Bill 1331 may interfere with systems used by employees to access locked facilities. Assembly Bill 1883 lacks key definitions, which may create confusion about which tools are covered. Clarifying the scope of both pieces of legislation will help ensure workers are protected from the harmful use of new and emerging workplace surveillance technologies without preventing the deployment of beneficial tools used for security or other legitimate purposes.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1740

Governor's Office, Sacramento

September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1740, which requires the City of Santa Monica to submit a complete proposed local coastal program (LCP) to the California Coastal Commission and establishes timelines for the Commission's review.

State law has long required local governments within the coastal zone to prepare an LCP for the portion of the coastal zone within their jurisdiction. Certified LCPs are essential to reducing permitting delays for coastal projects and provide jurisdictions greater predictability for housing, active transportation, and community investments. And yet, Santa Monica has had an outstanding LCP for over three decades. This is unacceptable.

In recent months, the City and the Commission have already agreed, through their own memorandum of understanding, to complete certification by the end of 2027. This bill's submission and review deadlines will now provide a legally mandated backstop, but those statutory deadlines should not replace that negotiated commitment to move even more quickly. I expect both parties to hit that mark. The people of Santa Monica cannot afford further delay. The City and Commission must turn their agreement into action and deliver that result.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1776

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1776, which would, among other provisions, make it unlawful for a person or firm to engage in anti-competitive behavior to monopolize or monopsonize any part of trade or commerce, or attempt to do so.

California boasts the fourth-largest economy in the world and is a global powerhouse for innovation and industry. I applaud the author for bringing forward this legislation, understanding that competition drives innovation, lowers prices, raises wages, and expands opportunity for consumers, workers, and small businesses. While I align myself with the stated goal of targeting anti-competitive conduct that harms consumers, workers, and businesses alike, we must be careful not to set the bar too low—dragging legitimate, superior business practices and products into the ambit of anti-competitive behavior. For example, the bill's reference to "substantial market power" should be understood as a necessary—but not sufficient—condition to prove unlawful conduct.

I sign this bill with the expectation that the Attorney General, district attorneys, and judges will interpret and apply it in ways that penalize clear wrongdoing, without creating needless uncertainty that risks harming legitimate businesses. Courts will necessarily grapple with the terms established in this bill, and additional legislation may be required to clarify the appropriate standards.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 2222

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2222, which would establish a refundable tax credit for news outlets of between \$7,500 and \$20,000 for each employed local news journalist.

I share the author's goal of supporting local news journalists, who are essential for a healthy democracy. That is why I worked with the Legislature and the private sector to create the California Civic Media Program, which provides grants to local news organizations. This program just received another \$20 million in funding and will provide up to \$250,000 in grants to eligible organizations. In addition, my administration approved another \$20 million in grants for training new journalists.

This new legislation builds on this work to help address the 20-year decline in local news coverage in California. The crisis is real, as two intertwining forces have chipped away at the foundations of an independent press in this state. The first is the rise of newspaper consolidation, in which some of the most trusted names in journalism are now controlled by a handful of powerful companies, hedge funds, and private equity firms. The second has been the upending of the advertising industry, which has shifted billions of dollars from newspapers to tech platforms. It's estimated that 46,000 newsroom jobs have been eliminated across the country over the last two decades, including 12,000 in California.

While I am signing this measure to help revive local journalism, the state will need follow-up legislation to address flaws that jeopardize the long-term viability of this new program. First, there is no cap on overall costs, which creates significant long-term financial uncertainty for the state. Second, this measure is not tailored to those organizations most in need of support. Given the generosity of the proposed tax credit, I am concerned this measure will result in windfall benefits for larger news operations that do not need public intervention at this scale, particularly those owned by hedge funds and billionaires. As currently crafted, the tax credits may give an outsized windfall to entities or individuals who have acquired local news organizations to extract value, and the taxpayers should not subsidize their profits,

Addressing these issues will do more than protect public dollars. The long-term success of this proposal rests on the public's support for using taxpayer dollars to invest in these institutions, which I believe are crucial for a healthy civil society. I fear that failing to address these flaws will further erode trust in our local news media.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 2689

Governor's Office, Sacramento

September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2689, which authorizes the nonrenewal of a lease in a 100% affordable low-income housing tax credit development when a household no longer meets specified income criteria. The authority applies when a household's income exceeds 140% of area median income for at least two consecutive years and the household can afford fair-market rent.

California's supply of deed-restricted affordable housing is limited, and these publicly supported units should remain available to the households that need them most. AB 2689 advances that goal by allowing housing providers, with appropriate notice, to make a unit available to a lower-income household when an existing tenant's income has increased substantially.

However, the bill may operate differently in certain high-cost counties because federal adjustments raise the lower-income eligibility limits in those areas, potentially subjecting some households to a lease nonrenewal after a relatively small increase in income. As this bill is implemented, it will be critical to provide clear guidance and appropriate safeguards for its income and rent-affordability requirements, including ample notice to residents who may be affected. Housing providers should also use this authority thoughtfully, considering each household's circumstances and reasonable housing alternatives before declining to renew a lease.

I also encourage the Legislature to consider further refinements that account for the unique conditions in high-cost areas. This would better preserve scarce affordable housing for those with the greatest need without inadvertently displacing residents for modestly improving their economic circumstances.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following veto messages from the Governor were received and ordered printed in the Journal:

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 220

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 220 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) from creating or applying their own medical-necessity criteria for subacute care. If the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) issues a standard authorization or reauthorization form for pediatric or adult subacute services, Medi-Cal MCPs would be required to accept that form. The bill also would prohibit Medi-Cal MCPs from requiring a subsequent authorization upon a patient's return from a bed hold for acute hospitalization.

I appreciate the author's intent to ensure that patients who require subacute services receive the care and support they need. However, Medi-Cal MCPs are already obligated to apply subacute medical necessity criteria in alignment with Medi-Cal policy. In response to the introduction of this bill, DHCS published clarifying guidance in June of this year to Medi-Cal MCPs regarding their responsibilities related to subacute care services—without limiting a Medi-Cal MCP's ability to use utilization management or increasing costs to the General Fund. Therefore, this bill is no longer necessary.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 464

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 464 without my signature.

This bill tolls the statute of limitations for bringing an action for sexual assault against a public entity or public employee alleged to have occurred while the claimant is imprisoned.

Protecting incarcerated people from sexual abuse and ensuring that survivors have meaningful avenues to report misconduct and seek accountability is critically important. However, the bill's expanded tolling and claims provisions could expose the state to substantial and uncertain future liability without opportunity for the state to meaningfully investigate or rebut.

By extending the tolling limitation to the period of the claimant's imprisonment, this bill would result in a substantial increase in the number of lawsuits for which documents or evidence may not have been preserved to rebut an allegation. This, coupled with provisions that would exempt these types of claims from the claims presentation requirement, would put the state in a serious disadvantage in defending itself against potential allegations in which evidence is no longer available, or witness memories are no longer reliable.

I resolutely condemn any person who sexually assaults an incarcerated individual. Such individuals should be thoroughly investigated and be fully held accountable. I strongly urge the Legislature to reintroduce the provisions of this bill related to monitoring, notifications, reporting, and transfers following allegations of staff sexual assault.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 664

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 664 without my signature.

This bill authorizes the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor to allow the Southwestern Community College District to offer four workforce-aligned baccalaureate degree programs outside of the existing CCC baccalaureate degree approval process.

Recently, I signed AB 2694 and SB 960 to create a statewide framework for community college districts to establish baccalaureate programs where there is demonstrated workforce demand and lack of capacity in regional universities.

This bill contains a provision that states it will not go into effect, even with my signature, if AB 2694 and SB 960 become law. To avoid confusion, I am vetoing this bill, but I encourage the Southwestern Community College District to continue to develop workforce-aligned baccalaureate-level programs needed in their region and utilize the new option afforded by the signing of AB 2694 and SB 960.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 760

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 760 without my signature.

This bill would enact a personal income and corporation tax exclusion for settlement payments related to the 2026 Garden Grove chemical leak.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of this bill. In 2022, I signed legislation that provided similar tax exclusions for settlement claims resulting from catastrophic wildfires that occurred in the preceding five years. In signing those bills, I stated that future measures, like this bill, should be included in the annual budget process, given the General Fund implications. This standard was subsequently applied to Assembly Bill 1973 (Lackey) and Senate Bill 542 (Dahle) in 2024. I strongly encourage the Legislature to include this proposal in next year's budget framework.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 788

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 788 without my signature.

This bill creates the Division of Female Programs and Services (Division) within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), which is solely responsible for female adult institutions and community facilities housing female offenders. The bill also makes changes to the Female Offender Reform Master Plan and creates an ombudsperson position solely assigned to adult female institutions.

I appreciate the author's recognition that incarcerated women face significant unique experiences that demand a different approach to program and policy development. However, this measure would considerably expand the size of the CDCR administration in ways that will duplicate existing work and create organizational dysfunction.

As the size of the state's incarcerated population has declined, my Administration has both closed institutions and worked to reduce the size of the administration of the CDCR. In 2025, the CDCR realigned its leadership structure to consolidate supervision of institutions by region, grouping both women's institutions into one region with the same Associate Director. This is already proving to be a significant step forward in bringing additional attention and resources to the women's institutions. In light of this, creating a new parallel Division within the CDCR to administer only two institutions is not advised. Further, the organizational changes required by this bill would result in increased costs to CDCR that were not considered in the context of this year's budget.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 880

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 880 without my signature.

This bill would make various changes to the California Prompt Payment Act, including requiring state agencies to reimburse a nonprofit grantee's indirect costs, eliminating the cap on grants or contracts eligible for penalty payments, and narrowing the circumstances under which the state can dispute an invoice.

While I appreciate the vital role our nonprofit partners play in supporting our communities, I have vetoed nearly identical legislation in the past, concerned that the policy would allocate a significant amount of grant funding toward indirect costs, rather than project implementation and outcomes for California. These concerns remain, as this bill would create significant cost pressure on the state in order to balance services for Californians.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1039

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1039 without my signature.

This bill would require state agencies to provide advance payments for certain grants and contracts awarded to eligible nonprofit organizations and federally recognized tribes, and establish a statewide framework to administer and reconcile those payments.

While I appreciate the author's goal of reducing financial barriers for nonprofits and tribes, imposing a new statewide requirement would severely limit the state's oversight and protection of public funds. I signed AB 590 in 2023 and AB 3017 in 2024, which provided agencies with authority to process advance payments for these entities. It is important to ensure agencies maintain discretion to evaluate the financial and programmatic risks of each request for advance payments. I encourage the author and stakeholders to continue engaging with administering agencies to help ensure they are utilizing the existing authorization to the fullest extent possible when appropriate.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1054

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1054 without my signature.

This bill would establish a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) framework for Bargaining Unit 5 patrol officers and Bargaining Unit 8 state peace officers and firefighters, as well as their associated supervisors and managers.

There may be merit to the creation of a voluntary DROP initiative to help address staffing challenges. However, a DROP could create significant long-term fiscal and administrative pressures on departments by altering employee tenures and retirement costs. Both the design and establishment of a DROP are more appropriately handled through the collective bargaining process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1099

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1099 without my signature.

This bill requires that any child or youth in foster care referred for regional center services receive a case conference within an initial 15-day period and requires regional centers to complete a full assessment and eligibility determination within 60 days.

While I share the author's goal to ensure all children and youth in foster care receive timely access to the support and services they need, this bill would create significant, ongoing General Fund cost pressures to fund local assistance costs annually. Additionally, the Department of Developmental Services is already actively working to modernize and standardize intake procedures to ensure timely access to care for all Californians across the 21 regional centers pursuant to SB 138 (Chapter 192, Statutes of 2023).

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1116

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1116 without my signature.

This bill requires the Secretary of State to develop a method to allow voting-eligible individuals who do not have a California driver's license or California identification card to register to vote electronically by January 1, 2029.

While I support the author's goal of removing unnecessary barriers for eligible voters to register to vote, this bill would result in one-time and ongoing costs in the millions of dollars not included in the 2026 Budget Act.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1542

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1542 without my signature.

This bill prohibits businesses that are subject to the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) from selling or sharing a consumer's sensitive personal information.

While I support the author's goal of protecting the sensitive personal information of Californians, a categorical ban on sharing that information is a step too far. Under state law, companies are required to provide California consumers with the option to limit the sharing of such information, and I worry there may be unintended consequences if consumers are removed entirely from the decision process.

Further, because this bill would apply to businesses broadly, its implementation and enforcement would result in significant costs not included in the 2026 Budget Act. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1562

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1562 without my signature.

This bill authorizes a county to adopt a system to randomly select individuals to serve as precinct board members. This bill also establishes standards and guidelines for a county election official to follow in developing and implementing this system.

I thank the author for his commitment to increasing civic engagement and participation in our democratic processes. If a county were to choose to implement a system consistent with this bill, it would require a tremendous amount of staff and financial resources. Given the unprecedented attacks on our election systems, I am concerned that while well-intentioned, this bill could inadvertently redirect resources away from local election officials administering free and fair elections.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1567

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1567 without my signature. This bill would allow cities and counties, under specified conditions, to count units approved in congregate housing and residential care facilities for the elderly toward up to 15% of their regional housing needs allocation in any income category.

California needs more housing and supportive living options for older adults. My administration has supported senior housing, including through recent legislation providing development incentives tied to clear affordability standards. However, this bill would allow these facilities to count toward any income category without demonstrating that they serve households at that income level. As a result, local governments could receive credit toward their lower-income housing obligations for facilities unaffordable to lower-income residents, thereby overstating their progress in meeting those needs.

The bill also does not establish how beds and units should be counted or how duplicative credit would be prevented. These unresolved questions could allow local governments to use such facilities as a substitute for housing they would otherwise be required to plan for and approve, without demonstrating that the facilities serve the same housing needs.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has identified the treatment of senior housing and group quarters as an issue requiring a consistent statewide approach. Any reform should align the population included in the regional housing need with the housing credited toward meeting it and establish clear standards for affordability, classification, and counting. This bill does not provide that framework.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1647

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1647 without my signature.

This bill would codify existing case law to prohibit the use of a minor's statements relating to a transfer hearing from being used against the minor during subsequent proceedings.

This measure provides that it does not "restrict, expand, alter, or modify" decisions by the California Supreme Court that have been good law on this issue for more than 40 years. By its own terms, the bill is "declaratory of existing law" and therefore unnecessary.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1832

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1832 without my signature.

This bill would, upon appropriation, create the 211 Fund in the State Treasury for the 211 system and require the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to allocate the funds to the California 211 Providers Network.

I appreciate the author's goal to create a funding mechanism for 211 providers across the state; however, this bill would result in millions of dollars in ongoing costs for Cal OES to implement, as well as tens of millions of dollars in ongoing cost pressures outside of the budget.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1891

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1891 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to dedicate a specified percentage of all grant funding appropriated to the Department to beneficial fire activities.

The state has nearly doubled the amount of prescribed burn treatments since 2021, treating roughly 200,000 acres annually. While I share the author's goal to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire projects, this bill limits CAL FIRE's ability to prioritize limited state resources toward the projects and communities facing the greatest wildfire risks.

Funding decisions of this nature should be considered within the annual budget process, where they can be evaluated alongside the state's broader wildfire resilience priorities and considered among available resources.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1967

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1967 without my signature.

This bill would revise procedures and requirements for children and youth who wish to enter or reenter foster care.

The intent of this bill is laudable, and I deeply appreciate the author's effort to address unacceptable delays in assistance to vulnerable young adults who find themselves in need of renewed support from the child welfare system. However, this bill's proposed changes to the eligibility standards for reentry into foster care would actually exacerbate, rather than mitigate, these delays.

This bill would not only make it more difficult to determine if a youth meets the criteria to reenter foster care, but it would only allow reentry for youth who are receiving no support at all—a far higher bar to clear than is currently in place, and one which would turn away youth who are receiving very little support and still need foster care services.

I encourage the Legislature and interested stakeholders to work with county child welfare agencies and the California Department of Social Services to identify improvements to the foster care reentry process that will effectively promote our shared goal of seeing disadvantaged former foster youth receive the services and support that they need.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2247

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2247 without my signature. This bill would establish the Trauma Healing and Resilience Investment for Victimized and Exposed Youth Act (T.H.R.I.V.E.) pilot program, to be administered by the State Department of Health Care Services in order to administer a program to pay for mental health and counseling services for youth survivors of gun violence.

I strongly support the author's commitment to this issue, and my administration continues to prioritize policies that increase assistance for individuals suffering from the effects of violence. This year's budget includes a \$12.5 million augmentation for Trauma Recovery Centers, which offer immediate assistance after a traumatic event, as well as long-term therapeutic support, addressing the emotional, psychological, and practical needs of survivors.

This measure is duplicative of those efforts and creates a new, unfunded grant program not included in the 2026 Budget Act. In partnership with the Legislature this year, we have enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2253

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2253 without my signature.

This bill would require certain recycled-content documentation obligations to apply to all products making recycled-content claims, beginning in 2030.

I share the author's goal of ensuring that environmental marketing claims are accurate and that consumers can trust the products they buy. However, I am concerned that expanding these documentation requirements will unduly burden manufacturers and suppliers already facing economic headwinds caused by federal tariff and trade policy actions. Adding new, complex compliance requirements at this time risks compounding those pressures, with little benefit to consumers.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2282

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2282 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to issue a waiver to a publicly owned and operated general acute care hospital (GACH) collaborating with the Del Puerto Health Care District to allow the operation of a “rural emergency stabilization care unit,” or a freestanding emergency department.

While I share the author's goal to provide emergency care access for rural communities, freestanding emergency departments have never legally operated in California. State law has long required that any emergency department be physically located within the hospital to ensure immediate access to necessary care. This bill would undermine patient safety by allowing the operation of an emergency department that lacks the statutorily required medical infrastructure of a GACH. In situations where every minute counts, evaluating and transferring patients to and from such a freestanding facility introduces unnecessary risks and delays, jeopardizing those with life-threatening conditions.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2314

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2314 without my signature.

This bill would propose new requirements for the Voluntary Temporary Transfer (VTT) of child care and development funds, allow a VTT request submission at any time during the fiscal year, and add optional fiscal management provisions for Alternative Payment Programs (APP).

I share the author's intent of ensuring families have access to reliable childcare. However, allowing an APP contractor to submit a VTT request at any time during the fiscal year conflicts with CDSS' existing statutory authority to set timelines for temporary transfers of funds. This compromises program integrity, putting contractor annual fiscal reports and audits at risk, and creates unnecessary administrative burdens for CDSS and contractors alike. Additionally, the bill's permissive language regarding the transfer of VTT funds out of a county conflicts with childcare and development funding requirements that were negotiated as part of the 2026 Budget.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2369

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2369 without my signature.

This bill makes energy-only resources eligible to satisfy long-term planning and procurement requirements under the Integrated Resource Plan and would designate energy-only resources as long lead-time resources for purposes of the California Independent System Operator's (CAISO) interconnection process.

Increasing the role of "energy-only" resources in state procurement and transmission planning is an important goal, and I appreciate the author's work on this issue. However, this bill is premature. The CAISO is currently studying the potential of energy-only resources as part of the 2026–2027 Transmission Planning Process, with results expected in November 2026. These results will inform the California Public Utilities Commission's development of the new Reliable and Clean Power Procurement Program, which seeks to align requirements of long-term procurement planning, resource adequacy, and other processes. This bill would predetermine the treatment of these energy-only resources before that essential work is complete.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2402

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2402 without my signature.

This bill would define a multiservice health club studio as a studio offering three or more specified amenities, and would remove the \$4,400 contract limit in statute.

California has long regulated health studio service contracts to protect consumers from excessive fees and predatory sales practices. The statutory cap was adopted to limit consumer's exposure to substantial future payment obligations, and I do not believe it is in the best interest of Californians to remove this cap, which could price consumers out of these clubs altogether.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2502

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2502 without my signature.

This bill would define “drive” for purposes of certain driving under the influence, reckless driving, and vehicular manslaughter offenses when a vehicle is operating with specified driver-support technology.

I share the author's goal of ensuring that drivers cannot avoid responsibility for impaired driving by engaging partially automated technology. Unfortunately, this bill as drafted introduces significant uncertainties into DUI law, which could have the unintended consequence of making it more difficult to hold dangerous drivers accountable. By using undefined terms that are not in alignment with established standards, such as “driver support features,” this bill could leave officers, prosecutors, and courts to resolve complex questions about a vehicle's software and capabilities before determining whether an impaired individual was legally driving.

Further, the incident cited as the impetus for this bill resulted in the driver being arrested, prosecuted, and convicted of DUI, demonstrating that existing law can already hold impaired drivers accountable when these systems are engaged. I encourage the Legislature to revisit this important issue next year, and instead focus on a comprehensive framework that consistently addresses responsibility across vehicle technologies and traffic offenses, while preserving effective enforcement of the state's impaired-driving laws.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2510

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2510 without my signature.

This bill would expand eligibility for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Family Reunification (FR) program by authorizing the program's cash aid period for longer than six months and no longer requiring that all children be removed from the home to be eligible for CalWORKs FR.

Last year, I vetoed a substantially similar bill because it resulted in ongoing costs that were not accounted for in the budget. That is still the case this year.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2526

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2526 without my signature.

This bill expands eligibility for the state's low-incidence disability special education funding program by adding pupils who take California's alternate assessments as determined by their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) team.

In this year's state budget, together with the Legislature, we made historic investments in special education, increasing funding by 43%—a \$2.4 billion ongoing increase overall—and including a \$40 million increase in low-incidence disabilities funding. I am incredibly proud of this work, and appreciate the author's intent to further support our students with extensive support needs.

Unfortunately, this bill takes the wrong approach by expanding eligibility based on a determination by an IEP team—an imprecise measure of the cost and intensity of a student's education needs. This could create inappropriate fiscal incentives and have the unintended consequence of diluting funding for currently eligible students.

Further efforts to address the cost of serving students with extensive support needs must build on the investments made in the state budget, preserve dedicated support for students with low-incidence disabilities, and use a funding mechanism more directly aligned with demonstrated service needs and costs.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2543

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2543 without my signature.

This bill would require the Office of Emergency Services (OES), in consultation with the California Energy Commission and the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, to produce, by July 1, 2028, a statewide assessment evaluating how emergency events affect Californians' access to fuel and transportation resources, identifying essential resources across emergency types, and recommending actions the state should take to ensure fuel and transportation availability during disasters.

I appreciate the author's intent to strengthen California's emergency preparedness and ensure continuity of critical mobility resources during emergencies. Maintaining access to fuel and transportation is essential to public health, safety, evacuation readiness, moving goods, and operation of critical infrastructure.

However, a study of this scale would require substantial new staffing and technical expertise and far longer timelines than those set in the bill, and would divert the OES from core public safety missions by assigning work more appropriately led by agencies with energy systems expertise such as the California Energy Commission.

My administration remains committed to ensuring that Californians have access to essential transportation and fuel resources during emergencies. We will continue pursuing approaches that strengthen resilience through existing statewide systems and partnerships.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2551

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2551 without my signature.

This bill requires the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to hold an open forum on a selected campus by December 31, 2027, to elicit student feedback regarding content-neutral time, place, and manner policies. It further requires that the institutions submit information on student code of conduct violations that occurred during, or as a result of, a protest on campus and a description of the discipline imposed on the student as a result of the specified student code of conduct violation.

Both the CSU and UC governing bodies have regularly scheduled meetings where the campus community can address their respective boards in a public forum. The CSU and UC also have established communication channels between their respective student associations and administrations at both the system and campus levels. Given the numerous ways that the campus community can already provide perspective to policy leaders, it is unnecessary to require an additional forum outside these established processes.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2565

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2565 without my signature.

AB 2565 would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to issue guidance clarifying Medi-Cal managed care plan (MCP) obligations to cover pharmacist services and would require DHCS to take corrective action in instances of noncompliance.

While I support the author's goal of ensuring our Medi-Cal MCPs receive appropriate guidance and enforcement actions from DHCS when reimbursing providers for pharmacist services, guidance is already underway to address the concerns driving this legislation, making this bill unnecessary. Initial guidance was published in September 2025, and a comprehensive all-plan letter to further clarify MCP pharmacist-services responsibilities will be released in the coming months. These efforts are part of DHCS's existing responsibilities and processes, which do not require additional statutory direction.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2571

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2571 without my signature.

This bill would require the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for advanced practice pharmacist services to be at least 85% of the fee schedule for physician services, including Medication Therapy Management pharmacist services. The bill also would require the Department of Health Care Services to seek federal approval to recognize pharmacists as healthcare providers in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) for reimbursement in the Medi-Cal program.

I appreciate the author's intent to improve access to advanced pharmacist services for Medi-Cal members, especially for those seeking care at FQHCs or RHCs. However, this bill would result in millions of dollars in ongoing, annual costs related to FQHC reimbursement, as well as millions in one-time costs to implement the required system changes, neither of which were accounted for in this year's budget.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2593

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2593 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a supervisor, administrator, or employee of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) or the California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) from interfering with or refusing to implement prescribed healthcare that results in substantial emotional distress or serious bodily injury.

While well-intended, I am concerned this bill could ultimately weaken the quality and accountability of patient care. In particular, this bill may directly conflict with the court-ordered healthcare system established under *Plata v. Newsom* and may cause challenges with the federal courts, risking backsliding in the significant progress made to fully delegate healthcare back to CDCR.

Further, this bill does not appear limited to CCHCS-employed providers and could potentially encompass healthcare recommendations from contractors, outside specialists, hospitals, or other community providers, creating uncertainty regarding either CDCR's or CCHCS's ability to independently evaluate outside treatment recommendations as they pertain to medical necessity. I am concerned about the potential liability tied to subsequent patient harm, as supervisors and clinicians may be reluctant to question or modify another provider's treatment decision even when doing so is part of their professional responsibilities or necessary to protect patient safety.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2717

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2717 without my signature.

This bill would extend through January 1, 2032, an exemption under the Outdoor Advertising Act allowing certain professional sports arenas built or under construction by January 1, 2027, to receive approval for new advertising displays that would otherwise be prohibited under state law.

I recognize that the revenue generated by these displays can support sports and entertainment venues and provide local economic benefits. However, I vetoed a similar measure in 2022 after the Federal Highway Administration notified Caltrans that existing arena billboards did not comply with federal law and that exemptions in state law did not provide the department with the ability to maintain effective control of outdoor advertising.

Those compliance risks remain, and state exemptions do not relieve California of its federal obligations. Failure to maintain effective control of outdoor advertising could jeopardize 10% of the state's federal highway funding—currently estimated at up to \$580 million annually.

As stated in my 2022 veto message, I continue to support modernizing federal requirements and encourage proponents of this legislation to pursue those changes at the federal level.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2770

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 27, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2770 without my signature.

This bill would require the state to quitclaim the state-owned land within San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park.

Under my administration, the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has worked with tribal governments to foster government-to-government coordination and co-management of natural lands within California tribes' ancestral lands. Such arrangements now cover more than half of State Parks land. Additionally, my administration facilitated the return of over 100,000 acres of land to tribes.

While I share the author's goal of further advancing ancestral land return, I am mindful of the need to approach that important work systemically—by building processes that are transparent and fair to all interested parties. I am concerned that piecemeal measures, like this bill, could undermine those values.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt

I acknowledge receipt this 27th day of September, 2026 at 8:27 p.m., of the following Assembly Bills without the Governor's signature, together with a statement of his objections thereto, signed by the Governor, delivered to me personally by Kimberly Moran Fuentes.

Assembly Bills Nos. 220, 464, 664, 760, 788, 880, 1039, 1054, 1099, 1116, 1542, 1562, 1567, 1647, 1832, 1891, 1967, 2247, 2253, 2282, 2314, 2369, 2402, 2502, 2510, 2526, 2543, 2551, 2565, 2571, 2593, 2717, and 2770.

HUGH SLAYDEN

Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 264

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 264 without my signature.

This bill expands access to the California College Fee Waiver program by repealing existing law that prohibits dependents of veterans from receiving state benefits while the dependent is entitled to specified federal education benefits or duplicate assistance from any other government source.

While I support the author's goal of expanding access to higher education for dependents of veterans, this bill would result in General Fund ongoing costs in the millions of dollars annually and should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1165

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1165 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop statewide finance plans on homelessness and housing unaffordability, establish related metrics, and update the Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness.

California must continue making strategic investments to prevent and end homelessness and expand affordable housing. But this bill layers a new finance-planning and reporting mandate onto existing work at a time when the state should be focused on delivering programs and measuring results. Further, this bill would require statewide funding estimates based on a static set of conditions, even though housing costs, local housing production, available resources, and Californians' needs change over time.

Planning and reporting requirements can be valuable when they fill a clear gap, improve accountability, or provide information that is not otherwise available. But new mandates should meet a high bar and provide a concrete benefit beyond existing efforts. This bill does not meet that important threshold. The state should instead focus its capacity on implementing established plans, evaluating results, and closing identified gaps rather than adding another planning requirement that substantially overlaps with work already underway.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1537

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1537 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit peace officers from engaging in any form of secondary employment that involves enforcing immigration laws and would require that certain documents pertaining to secondary employment be subject to the California Public Records Act (PRA).

This measure recognizes the disturbing role of those who participate in the indiscriminate raids that have rounded up American citizens, people with legal status, hardworking parents, and their children. The horrific tactics deployed by the Trump administration to instill fear and panic in our most vulnerable communities are a stain on our nation, and Congress must act to hold the Trump administration and culpable agents accountable, while also advancing reforms to ensure fair, humane, and lawful immigration enforcement that is transparent and accountable to the public.

However, establishing a default prohibition regarding the secondary employment law enforcement officers choose to do in their free time is a step too far. State and local peace officers already must abide by specific standards and rules, including ones that apply to their personal conduct. Any officers who violate those standards are held accountable through investigations that may culminate in their peace officer status being suspended or revoked entirely.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1608

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1608 without my signature.

This bill would exempt the Office of the Inspector General (Office) for the California High-Speed Rail Authority from specified state personnel and contracting requirements.

The Office was established in 2022 to strengthen independent oversight and accountability. Earlier this year, we enhanced the Office's authority by enacting budget trailer bill language expanding the Office's ability to protect whistleblowers and safeguard sensitive investigative records while preserving transparency and accountability.

My administration also has continued to support the Office through targeted actions, including a planned increase in its information technology project delegation authority. The Office should continue working with the appropriate state agencies to address its operational needs through existing processes rather than receive broad, permanent exemptions from generally applicable statewide administrative safeguards.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1666

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1666 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Biomass Innovation Park Grants and Financing Program, to be administered by the Natural Resources Agency, to identify biomass innovation parks.

I thank the author for his commitment to advancing the use of wood biomass to improve forest health and build wildfire resilience. In partnership with the Legislature, my administration allocated \$50 million from the Climate Bond to the Department of Conservation to develop a program to fund the development of large-scale biomass facilities and identify opportunities to accelerate the utilization of wood waste biomass.

The program proposed in this measure would require additional resources not included in this year's budget. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1813

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1813 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to adopt or modify a customer renewable energy subscription program under which a program participant is credited for electricity generated from a renewable generation facility—such as an array of solar panels.

California leads the nation in the deployment of new electricity resources, largely due to the proliferation of solar energy up and down the state. This year, we hit a new milestone—for the first time, Californians used more solar than natural gas during the first half of 2026. The state also has more distributed, small-scale solar capacity than any state in the nation, and has dedicated over \$1 billion in subsidies towards community and low-income renewable energy programs.

While I appreciate the author's goal of making solar even more accessible at a community level, this bill is structurally flawed. It would effectively require an administratively set price for the generation of power that exceeds the value that generation provides to the grid. This would result in significant upward pressure on consumer energy bills—the independent Public Advocates Office estimates the bill could cost ratepayers an additional \$1.5 billion annually—without delivering reliable, high-performance capacity to the grid at the times we need it.

Fundamentally, this bill would shift costs and work counter to the state's energy affordability and reliability goals.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1881

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1881 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a government agency from burdening a California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the agency shows that doing so is the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling governmental interest. This bill would also require a government agency to obtain written consent from an affected tribe before undertaking any physical change to a state land if the action may pose a risk to a sacred site.

I am sympathetic to the goals of this measure. However, this legislation's proposed framework could have far-reaching impacts on the basic operations of state government and the management of state property, and this uncertainty calls for further discussion and review. I encourage the author to continue his work to refine these concepts, and I call on state agencies to be part of that conversation.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1896

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1896 without my signature.

This bill would disqualify from state and local government employment any sworn law enforcement officer or contractor who personally engaged in federal immigration enforcement, unless that person is deemed suitable based on criteria to be established by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

This measure recognizes the disturbing role of those who participate in the indiscriminate raids that have rounded up American citizens, people with legal status, and hardworking parents. The horrific tactics deployed by the Trump administration to instill fear and panic in our most vulnerable communities are a stain on our nation, and Congress must act to hold the Trump administration and culpable agents accountable, while also advancing reforms to ensure fair, humane, and lawful immigration enforcement that is transparent and accountable to the public.

However, establishing a default employment prohibition for any individual engaged in enforcing federal civil immigration laws is a step too far. It is a mistake to discourage empathetic and qualified Americans from working in the federal government, or choosing to leave long-standing employment with the federal government because they find the current administration's policies and tactics reprehensible. Moreover, hiring for state and local government employees already requires specific standards, including evaluations of personal conduct, and any employees who violate those standards would be held accountable.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1940

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1940 without my signature.

This bill would amend the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) to include perimenopause, menopause, postmenopause, and related medical conditions within the definition of "sex."

I strongly support the author's goal of protecting women experiencing menopause and related conditions. For that reason, my budget proposal included improvements to prescription drug coverage for symptoms of menopause, required plans to screen enrollees age 40 and older for menopause during primary care and OB/GYN appointments, and provided professional training incentives for physicians and other healthcare professionals who specialize in menopause care.

The characteristics this bill seeks to include in the definition of sex are already covered under FEHA to the extent that menopause-related symptoms rise to the level of a medical condition or disability. Under those circumstances, current state law requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations. The approach taken by this measure may have the unintended consequence of authorizing a FEHA lawsuit for all adverse employment decisions made against a very large segment of the working population. The ensuing litigation could result in substantial General Fund impacts and cost pressures without meaningfully addressing the needs of the people the bill is intended to protect.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1949

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1949 without my signature.

This bill would require Medi-Cal to cover up to 24 acupuncture visits per calendar year for each Medi-Cal member and allow additional acupuncture visits beyond that limit.

I appreciate the author's intent to ensure vulnerable populations maintain access to acupuncture as a treatment option. To that end, Medi-Cal already covers up to two acupuncture services per month, and the Department of Health Care Services can administratively update Medi-Cal policy to align with the generally accepted standard of care without the need for legislation. Further, I do not believe it is appropriate to legislate additional visit requirements outside the annual budget process due to its impact on utilization and costs.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1997

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1997 without my signature.

This bill would require a public agency serving as the lead agency for a development project to approve or disapprove a housing development within 30 days after certifying an environmental impact report (EIR). This expedited process applies if at least 90 percent of the project's units are affordable to very low- or extremely low-income households and the development is seeking public financing. If the lead agency fails to act within this 30-day period, the project may be deemed approved.

I strongly support accelerating affordable housing production. My administration and the Legislature have enacted comprehensive reforms providing qualifying housing projects with ministerial approval, CEQA exemptions and judicial streamlining, and accelerated entitlement and permitting timelines. However, this bill creates further statutory ambiguity by failing to clarify how its deadline applies to subsequent project approvals that rely on a program, master, or staged EIR. Although the broader EIR may already be certified, a subsequent project may still require additional project-specific environmental review. The bill does not clearly establish whether the regulatory clock begins upon certification of the broader EIR or after that additional project-specific review is complete. Shortening the deadline without resolving this question would create additional uncertainty for public agencies responsible for implementing the law.

This risk is difficult to justify given the measure's limited reach. The bill applies exclusively to a narrow subset of projects—those with at least 90% of units affordable to very low- or extremely low-income households and requiring a full approve or deny the project from 60 to 30 days. Deeply affordable housing developments typically depend on multiple sources of public funding, often with their own requirements and deadlines; they need a high degree of regulatory certainty to assemble and retain financing. Moreover, most already use existing regulatory pathways that streamline or entirely bypass this review altogether. Therefore, this narrow potential benefit does not outweigh the risk that projects could be inadvertently denied or deemed approved based on unclear requirements and compressed timelines.

Effective housing policy should provide clear, workable rules that move projects forward—not jam public agencies into making consequential decisions under uncertain statutory requirements. Unfortunately, this bill does not meet that standard.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2066

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2066 without my signature.

This bill would make pregnancy a triggering event for purposes of enrollment or changing a health benefit plan.

Last year, I vetoed a substantially similar bill because it would have set a dangerous precedent for condition-specific special enrollment periods and created substantial instability in the individual health insurance market. These concerns remain, especially at a time when consumers across the nation face uncertainty about the affordability of their healthcare due to the federal administration's draconian cuts to our safety net.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2186

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2186 without my signature.

This bill would exclude, from personal and corporate income taxation, any monetary compensation or benefits made pursuant to state or local government reparations programs or federal law intended to correct for past and ongoing harms to a group of people, including the descendants of enslaved or incarcerated persons or other members of a protected class.

I thank the author for her continued work to redress the documented harms of slavery. I was proud to sign into law last year legislation establishing the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery, a first-in-the-nation law establishing a state agency that, among its key responsibilities, will advise on reparative justice programs for Black Americans. California's work on this important endeavor is just beginning.

However, because the full scope of the proposed tax exclusion is unknown, fiscal caution is warranted. The proposed exclusion for unspecified federal initiatives could be interpreted broadly, resulting in substantial fiscal uncertainty. Moreover, given the potentially significant General Fund implications, this measure should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2218

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2218 without my signature.

This bill would establish a state policy to recognize and address the inequities inflicted upon all California Native American tribes regarding access to, and control over, water by state-sanctioned actions of termination, removal, and assimilation, and would require several state agencies to take a series of steps to implement this policy. The bill would also require disputes between a tribe and an agency over implementation of the policy to be brought before the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs for mediation before the agency action is challenged in court.

I have long recognized the historical harms perpetrated against Native peoples and tribal governments in California, and my administration has worked tirelessly to address them. Under my administration, state agencies are directed to foster respectful, government-to-government dialogue with tribes above and beyond what existing law requires. For example, the Department of Water Resources convened a tribal advisory committee to ensure tribal perspectives are incorporated into updates to the California Water Plan. The State Water Resources Control Board also expressly incorporated Tribal Beneficial Uses into its long-term planning, which involves extensive engagement and collaboration with tribal nations to protect water resources important to tribes.

I also recognize, however, that California must streamline its water policies to protect our water supply from the reality of climate change. I am concerned this bill would undermine that imperative—adding new layers of process to duplicate work that my Administration already prioritizes. I am further concerned that the bill is not sufficiently clear about how its new policy should be implemented—or whether such implementation would disrupt important regulations, policies, permits, and grant criteria already moving forward. Adding new sources of uncertainty will delay our urgent fight to secure Californians' water supplies.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2367

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2367 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the State Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the State Department of Hospitals to provide specified staffing information for state-run health facilities. Required information would include data on vacancies, overtime, contracts, and the number of times each facility fell short of a required staffing minimum.

I appreciate the author's goal to give the public and state employees more information about the hiring and retention challenges facing state-run health facilities. However, this measure would create substantial operational and technological burdens for affected departments by requiring the creation of more complex reporting structures than currently exist, resulting in millions of dollars in new General Fund costs.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2465

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2465 without my signature.

This bill would disqualify large businesses with specified relationships to private prisons or immigration enforcement agencies from receiving state-provided loans, grants, or tax credits.

I agree with the author that more must be done to hold the Trump administration accountable for the indiscriminate raids that have rounded up American citizens, people with legal status, and hardworking parents. The horrific tactics deployed by the federal administration to instill fear and panic in our most vulnerable communities are a stain on our nation. Congress must act to hold the Trump administration and culpable agents accountable, while also advancing reforms to ensure fair, humane, and lawful immigration enforcement that is transparent and accountable to the public.

While I appreciate the author's goal of ensuring that state dollars do not support these egregious federal actions, this bill's requirements are unclear and expand beyond the stated intent. Disallowing state credits or other benefits could affect businesses providing legitimate goods and services to a range of agencies with responsibilities beyond the type of immigration enforcement that inspired this bill. Given the severity of the consequences, I am concerned that these unclear restrictions would interfere with otherwise lawful state programs and economic development activities.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2575

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2575 without my signature.

This bill would authorize a worker providing direct patient care to override the output of a clinical decision support system if, in the judgment of the worker acting within their scope of practice, an override is necessary to meet the applicable standard of care or comply with applicable law. In addition, the bill would prohibit employers from retaliating against workers providing direct patient care solely for relying on or overriding a clinical decision support system.

While I commend the author's commitment to ensure that artificial intelligence (AI) technologies deployed in clinical settings support safe patient care and preserve professional standards, including the ability of healthcare workers to exercise their professional judgment, it is essential that new laws in this area be practical and enforceable in their implementation to achieve their intended goals.

This bill's anti-retaliation provisions do not protect workers as intended. By prohibiting adverse actions based solely on the employee's override of, or reliance on, a clinical decision support system, this bill ties the Labor Commissioner's hands in establishing a violation—a higher bar than other retaliation protections, which simply prohibit action because of a protected activity.

More importantly, linking anti-retaliation protections to a scope-of-practice determination puts the Labor Commissioner in the position of adjudicating the standard of care for patients—something the Labor Commissioner does not have the medical expertise or skill to do. Without that requisite specialized knowledge, the Labor Commissioner cannot effectively and fairly enforce the bill's anti-retaliation provisions as the author intends.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2656

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2656 without my signature.

This bill would require public employers to provide a recognized employee organization with at least 45 days' written notice before developing, purchasing, or requiring the use of any generative artificial intelligence to perform a service that is within the scope of work of the job classification represented by the recognized employee organization.

I believe that employees should be made aware when employers introduce new technologies that significantly impact them. However, this measure would impose redundant administrative layers on public agencies and slow the deployment of even the most innocuous tools. Moreover, this issue is best resolved through the collective bargaining process, which allows employees and employers to tailor rules appropriate for their workplace.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2721

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2721 without my signature.

This bill requires a hotel operator with actual knowledge of a reservation by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on the premises to post a notice in a prominent and accessible place to hotel workers that discloses the possible presence of those officers on the premises, and, upon request by a guest at the time of check-in, requires disclosure of this possible presence during a guest's reservation.

Recent conduct by federal agencies captured by this bill is abhorrent, and hotel employees deserve basic information about their rights should they come into contact with federal immigration officers. To that end, I signed SB 294 in 2025, and the state has greatly expanded investments and resources to help Californians, including workers, understand their rights when interacting with immigration officers.

While the intent of the author is laudable, this bill introduces considerable consumer privacy and public safety concerns by compelling hotel operators to disclose this guest information not just to their employees, but to the public. Compelling the disclosure of guest records on demand is likely in conflict with longstanding state privacy laws, and would put hotel operators in the position of determining which law they should follow. Further, requiring this information to be shared with the public could create real public safety risks on hotel properties by encouraging demonstrations or other disruptive activity. We have seen even the most peaceful protests escalate unexpectedly, which could lead to real risk for workers, demonstrators, and other hotel guests.

I encourage the Legislature to revisit this issue next year in a manner that avoids these unintended consequences and instead focuses on promoting safety and transparency for hotel employees.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2739

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2739 without my signature.

This bill establishes the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust to theoretically generate ongoing funding for two programs—one to provide water rate assistance and another to provide infrastructure grants for community water systems.

Ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water in California has been a top priority of my Administration over the last eight years. We have made tremendous progress in bringing clean, affordable drinking water to California's most disadvantaged communities—over one million people who lacked this most basic need now have it thanks to this work. That said, much more work remains, and I deeply appreciate the intent behind this proposal. But by creating a permanent program without identifying a sustainable, ongoing funding source, this bill—as well as SB 1125—misses the mark. I encourage the Legislature to revisit this issue next year as part of the annual budget process, in order to balance the funding needed to support a proposal of this nature with other fiscal considerations.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt

I acknowledge receipt this 30th day of September, 2026 at 4:30 p.m., of the following Assembly Bills without the Governor's signature, together with a statement of his objections thereto, signed by the Governor, delivered to me personally by Kimberly Moran Fuentes.

Assembly Bills Nos. 264, 1165, 1537, 1608, 1666, 1813, 1881, 1896, 1940, 1949, 1997, 2066, 2186, 2218, 2367, 2465, 2575, 2656, 2721, and 2739.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

DANIEL ALVAREZ, Assistant Minute Clerk

INDEX—MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Messages from the Governor were printed on this day relative to the following bills:

<i>Assembly Bill</i>	<i>Journal Page</i>
1687 Signing	7146
1349 Signing	7147
817 Signing	7147
1901 Signing	7148
2054 Signing	7148
2050 Signing	7149
1294 Signing	7150
40 Signing	7151
1331 Signing	7151
1883 Signing	7151
1740 Signing	7152
1776 Signing	7153
2222 Signing	7154
2689 Signing	7155
220 Veto	7156
464 Veto	7157
664 Veto	7158
760 Veto	7158
788 Veto	7159
880 Veto	7160
1039 Veto	7160
1054 Veto	7161
1099 Veto	7161
1116 Veto	7162
1542 Veto	7162
1562 Veto	7163
1567 Veto	7164
1647 Veto	7164
1832 Veto	7165
1891 Veto	7165
1967 Veto	7166
2247 Veto	7167
2253 Veto	7167
2282 Veto	7168
2314 Veto	7168
2369 Veto	7169
2402 Veto	7169
2502 Veto	7170
2510 Veto	7171
2526 Veto	7172
2543 Veto	7173
2551 Veto	7174
2565 Veto	7174
2571 Veto	7175

<i>Assembly Bill</i>	<i>Journal Page</i>
2593 Veto	7176
2717 Veto	7177
2770 Veto	7178
264 Veto	7179
1165 Veto	7180
1537 Veto	7181
1608 Veto	7182
1666 Veto	7182
1813 Veto	7183
1881 Veto	7184
1896 Veto	7185
1940 Veto	7186
1949 Veto	7187
1997 Veto	7188
2066 Veto	7189
2186 Veto	7189
2218 Veto	7190
2367 Veto	7191
2465 Veto	7191
2575 Veto	7192
2656 Veto	7193
2721 Veto	7194
2739 Veto	7195

