



October 2018

Sacramento Update

At the time of drafting, California and the nation are just a few days away from one of the most anticipated midterm elections in modern history. Across the board, every indicator to date is showing unprecedented turnout for a non-presidential election year. Of course know one will understand for sure the total turnout until weeks after the election but, without a doubt, there is a heightened level of interest and awareness that we have not seen in quite some time.

Obviously, the major implications and what most pundits are anxious to see is the effect the election will have on the national level. Democrats are trying to keep the Senate margins close even though the electoral map does not favor major gains. It is at the House of Representatives level where Democrats are hoping to pick up enough seats to flip control from the Republicans. Polling as recent as November 1, 2018, estimates that Democrats have an approximate 90% chance to regain the majority. Part of the matrix for Democrats to wrest control away from the Republicans is for traditional, and otherwise “safe”, Republican seats in California to be in play for the first time in recent memory. Congressional seats in Orange and San Diego County could determine whether Republicans continue to control all the major levers of power in Washington, D.C.

The electoral enthusiasm seen in national races in California is also showing up in so-called “down ticket” races. While the Democrats have a virtual stranglehold on all the major offices and electoral bodies in California there is talk that the State Assembly might be able to pick up one or two more seats. The Democrats already enjoy a 2/3+ majority in that body so any extra members affiliated with the Democratic party would essentially guarantee their hegemony in the Assembly for many years to come. At this time, the State Senate is expected to maintain their existing party split of 26 Democrats to 14 Republicans, a scant one member short of the Democrats having a 2/3 majority in that House as well.

It appears likely that the Democrats will continue pitching a shut out in the Constitutional offices in California, meaning California has not elected a Republican to a statewide office in quite some time and recent polling suggests that will continue to be the case. The only caveat to that is the race for Insurance Commissioner where current State Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) is challenging Independent Steve Poizner. Poizner previously held that office for one term as a Republican but has switched to being a registered independent for his most current campaign. Recent polling suggests this race will come down to the wire with the current estimated difference separating the candidates within the polls margin of error.

After the election concludes the Legislature will meet shortly thereafter to elect their party leaders moving forward, with the official start of the next legislative session happening in December as the new members (or incumbents who were just reelected) are sworn into office. Frankly, the most interesting events to take place between the election and when bills and budgetary items start to be considered more fully (January/February) is what members will chair and/or serve on the various committees. The leadership in both Houses will need to determine what members will oversee or have influence on various policy issues, and those appointments often determine the agendas for each legislative session. We will be watching these appointments closely and report on any implications.

As TBOC moves forward, we would like to hear back from members. If there are crime-victim stories from your community or updated statistics that you are willing to share with the group or even perhaps have featured in an upcoming marketing video, please let us know by forwarding an email to: Info@TakingBackOurCommunityCA.com.