

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of March 4, 2024

State Issues	
March Primary Election	<p>This week has been focused not on the activities inside the state Capitol, but on Tuesday's primary election. California is notorious for taking a long time to count all ballots and finalize elections, so there are quite a few races still to be determined. While all of these elections may have some impact on health policy moving forward, there was one clear health care measure on the ballot: The Governor-backed Proposition 1 regarding mental health funding.</p> <p>Governor Newsom's Proposition 1 ballot initiative makes changes to the Mental Health Services Act, which includes new authority to provide housing for behavioral health patients. The proposal also includes a bond – allowing the state to borrow more funding for these services. This was the Governor's number 1 priority – so much so that he made sure to clear the ballot of other initiatives – leaving his as the only one on the ballot to stand out.</p> <p>There are many supporters of the measure – including the Big City Mayors' group and the National Alliance on Mental Illness – and they were able to raise more than \$20 million in support of the measure.</p> <p>However, there remain many in opposition, including many patients, civil rights, and behavioral health advocates who were concerned that the state will force more people into involuntary treatment. They raised very little in funding, yet, they have made this a very competitive election. As of 6:45am today, the vote is 50.3% Yes and 49.7% No.</p> <p>Cal Matters has an interesting article outlining a few more of the surprises in the election, and you can find that here: <a href="https://calmatters.org/newsletter/california-election-results-winners-losers/">https://calmatters.org/newsletter/california-election-results-winners-losers/</a>.</p> <p>You can find all of the up-to-date election results on the Secretary of State's website: <a href="https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/">https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/</a>.</p>
Medi-Cal Stakeholder Meeting	<p>Each quarter, the Department of Health Care Services holds a public stakeholder meeting to review many of the current projects they are working on, including Cal AIM and other major Medi-Cal initiatives. This latest meeting includes a joint meeting of the broad stakeholder group with the behavioral health stakeholders' group. You can access all of the materials here: <a href="https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/021524SACMeetingMaterials.aspx">https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/021524SACMeetingMaterials.aspx</a></p> <p>At the meeting, they covered an overview of the State budget, status of the Medi-Cal redetermination efforts, an update on the Managed Care Plan transitions many beneficiaries are facing due to changes in the plans DHCS has decided to contract with, and an update on the January 1 expansion of Medi-Cal services to qualified undocumented residents.</p>

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