



IndivisibleEB.org

Assembly Member Buffy Wicks
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To: Assembly Member Buffy Wicks
From: Indivisible East Bay
Date: July 16, 2019
Subject: Resisting the Trump Agenda

Legislative Priorities: We have attached a list of our top priority bills from this session for your reference. Many are mentioned in this memo.

Questions:

- What are your legislative priorities this session?
- What do you see as the biggest challenges to taking bold action?
- Do you have any suggestions of where grassroots support in your district and/or elsewhere could have the most effect?

ACA 6: One huge voting rights priority for us is ACA 6 (McCarty), which would restore the right to vote to people on parole to re-enfranchise over 50,000 Californians. ACA 6 passed out of the Elections Committee in the Assembly by a vote of 6-1, Gallagher (R) being the only no vote. Mayes (R) voted yes in favor, making it a bipartisan effort now. IEB is working with the community co-sponsors of ACA 6, including Initiate Justice and All of Us or None, and our community partner Open Gate, which supports people exiting prison, including many on parole, to enroll in college with a support program at Chabot College in Hayward. Status: Passed out of House Appropriations on 7/10/19 on a vote of 12-3. We're asking Asm. Wicks to become a co-author. ACA 6 now needs a 2/3rds vote on the Assembly floor.

Health Care: [In 10 years](#) the elder population (those over 65) will exceed the population of those under 18. Caught between the generations are millions of late-career but pre-retirement workers who will need to balance childcare and eldercare responsibilities with the need to provide financial support for both elder family members and pre-adult children. [Women have historically been bearing the burden](#) of much of this often uncompensated work on top of compensated work responsibilities.

[\(https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/july-august-2019/the-strange-political-silence-on-elder-care/\)](https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/july-august-2019/the-strange-political-silence-on-elder-care/)

Questions:

- Is anyone in California looking at something like the long-term trust program that recently passed in Washington State to give residents a benefit to help pay for elder care?
- Has Asm. Wicks given thought to expanding services and funding for California's Department on Aging?
- What sort of on-going support can we expect to see for families as California's population ages and there are ever more demands on not just eldercare services but family caregivers?

Local Cooperation with ICE: We just learned that Oakland Airport is one of the top airports used by ICE in California (<https://twitter.com/uwchr/status/1150218168809345024>). Do you have any thoughts on what might be done to end that cooperation as has been done in San Francisco and Seattle?

Elections and Voting Rights: A unifying theme of our selection of voting rights bills is supporting the major goals of HR-1: expanding voting rights, campaign finance reform, and strengthening the government's ethics laws and, bringing them altogether, making the process of voting as straightforward as possible. HR-1 is an omnibus bill because the most effective changes work in tandem to complement each other. We see these bills as doing just that: [AB 49](#), [SB 72](#) (and [AB 363](#), [AB 177](#), which did not pass but deserve to be revisited next year) collectively remove barriers to voting for everyone. ACA 6 benefits a group of people that is not just historically disenfranchised but increases civic engagement for their communities -- who in turn will benefit from easier voting access. [SB 47](#) and [AB 1217](#) work together to make it hard to evade the other. [SB-139](#) contributes to all of these by making county elections resistant to partisan interference in the same way state-wide races are. The absence of both AB-363 and AB-177 makes it much harder for people without easy access to polls on election day to actually vote

Questions:

- Especially with California settling the Judicial Watch, Inc., et al. v. Logan, et al. lawsuit and agreeing to purge voter rolls we want our elected officials to perform oversight to ensure that residents are able to access their right to same-day voter registration and provisional voting. What can you do to make sure same-day registration is operating as intended? Could you hold a hearing or ask for a report? How can we help?

CA Budget: We were disappointed that the budget did not expand the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) program to include holders of ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers) though we are glad the income threshold was expanded. And we were glad that Medi-Cal was expanded to include some undocumented immigrants, but disappointed that it didn't include seniors.

Environment: We want you to support [SB 200](#), the California Safe Drinking Water Act and [SB 168](#), Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience, authored by Sen. Wieckowski. It establishes the Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience, who shall be appointed by the Governor, serving as the statewide lead for the planning and coordination of climate adaptation policy implementation. Thank you for supporting [AB1788](#) which prohibits the use of 2nd generation anticoagulant rodenticides statewide on statewide properties to protect wildlife (with public health exceptions).

Questions:

-We need bold policies to address our climate crisis. Have you been working with Assemblyman Bonta on his Green New Deal legislation at all ([AB 1276](#))?

-What are your thoughts on the PG&E situation?

Sheriffs: We thank you for voting yes on [AB 1185](#) Officer oversight: sheriff oversight board.

Questions:

-We are very unhappy with our sheriffs in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, especially on immigration matters and in-custody deaths and abusive conditions in the jails What is your relationship like with their offices?

-Would you consider introducing a constitutional amendment to switch from elected to appointed sheriffs? Would you introduce a bill allowing counties to set term limits for sheriffs and D.A.s?

Education: We strongly support the right of every child to excellent and equitable public education, which is fundamental to democracy. Teachers and other public school employees must enjoy compensation and working conditions that allow our public schools to attract and retain a skilled and dedicated workforce. We support our unions.

Questions:

- How do these values inform your thinking on enacting charter reform through the CA legislature?
- Does OUSD have a chance at forgiveness of its debt to the state – at the least the debt that was accrued during state receivership? What can you – and what can we do – toward that goal?
- We appreciate your support for the Schools and Communities First Proposition. Are there additional mechanisms that you are pursuing or considering?

Housing: We appreciate that addressing California’s housing crisis is a priority for you. We have members who both support and opposed ([SB 50](#)), but we are in agreement that something needs to be done and that affordability and displacement should be our biggest concerns.

Questions:

- Can you tell us a little bit about your thoughts on how the legislature should move forward?
- Thank you for being a principal co-author of [AB 1482](#), anti-rent gouging and just cause eviction.

Workers Rights: Thank you for supporting [AB-5](#) which would give many workers now unfairly categorized independent contractors the benefits all employees deserve such as unemployment insurance, health care subsidies, paid parental leave, overtime pay, workers’ compensation, and a guaranteed \$12 minimum hourly wage. Please don’t allow the governor to weaken the bill or give exceptions to companies looking to exploit workers.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB5

Prop 13 Reform: Closing the corporate loophole so that companies will pay their fair share and California can afford to do more to help its residents is a big priority for us. What are you doing on this and what can we do to help (per the SF Chronicle, the County Assessors Assn. has come out against it, saying it would be too much of a financial burden to fight the inevitable appeals by big corporations).