



**California**  
CHAPTER

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT #302

### Election Preview - Democrats Look To Solidify Super Majority

**November 7, 2018:** There were no major surprises with Gavin Newsom defeating John Cox by more than 18 points in the Governor's race and the Democrats sweeping the statewide offices. There is still a close statewide race for Insurance Commissioner with Democrat, Ricardo Lara, holding a slight lead over Steve Poizner who is not registered with any political party. Mr. Poizner had been a Republican while he was the Insurance Commissioner from 2007 to 2011 and when he ran for Governor in 2010 but was defeated in the primary by fellow Republican Meg Whitman.

Although there are a handful of races in the state legislature which are still too close to call and will likely end up with re-counts, the Democrats were still able to secure a super majority. In the Senate, Democrat Melissa Hurtado defeated incumbent Republican Andy Vidak. This victory gave the Democrats the needed 27 seats to secure a super majority. The tightest race in the Senate is between Democrat Anna Caballero and Republican Robert Poythress is separated by roughly 1,000 votes out of 112,000. Even if Mr. Poythress is able to pull out a victory the Democrats will maintain a super majority.

In the Assembly, the Democrats already had a supermajority by one seat (55 total seats) coming into the election. Last night, they picked up two seats and could add two more seats in close Republican incumbent races. There is also a close Democrat incumbent race in the 60th Assembly race. Amazingly in this race, the Democrat, Sabrina Cervantes has 26,731 votes and her opponent Republican Bill Essayli has 26,628 votes. No question this will move to a re-count.

The chatter in Sacramento has moved quickly to what lies ahead for the 2019/2020 legislative session. Governor Brown had been a solid backstop to attempts to pass tax measures or legislation with high costs.

Many are worried with a Democrat super majority and a more liberal Governor the State's relatively solid financial status will be tested. Insiders are already anticipating Legislators to "dust off" old ideas that Governor Brown did not like to test on Governor Newsom.

Specifically, in healthcare, there is already the expectation of the California Nurses Association to reintroduce their single payer legislation. It is also expected Assemblymember Kalra will reintroduce his bill to set rates for commercial health insurance payments to healthcare providers. Next year will undoubtedly be a fascinating ride.