



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT #301

### Primary Election Results - Newsom and Cox Top Two for Governor - Democrats Lose Supermajority in State Senate

**June 6, 2018:** Yesterday's primary election results are almost finalized but the results in a few key elections are set. For Governor, Democrat Gavin Newsom led all candidates securing 33% of the votes while Republican businessman John Cox received roughly 26% of the vote. Coming into the election the main question was who would come in second to Newsom and move onto the general election in November.

Democrat Antonio Villaraigosa, former Los Angeles mayor, was positioning himself as the moderate Democrat with hopes of picking up enough "decline to state" voters to make the top two but after President Trump endorsed John Cox Villaraigosa's chances began to fade. He ended up with 13.5% of the votes.

Cox moving to the general election is what Newsom wanted to occur. Looking ahead to the November election, given the state's current party registration, it is hard to envision Cox having any chance of winning.

With Newsom as the clear front runner, many in the healthcare circles now view the idea of a single payer healthcare system as a strong possibility.

Another state election of significance was the recall campaign of State Senator Josh Newman whose district covers an area including Anaheim, Fullerton, and West Covina. Democrat, Senator Newman was elected in 2016 in an extremely close race which gave the Senate Democrats a supermajority. The

Republicans have been targeting this district ever since the 2016 election. Last year, Senator Newman voted for a gas tax and the Republicans jumped on the opportunity and pushed for a recall election. 59% of the voters agreed to recall Senator Newman and they then voted for Republican Ling-Ling Chang to replace him. Ms. Chang had previously lost to Senator Newman in 2016.

One additional race to mention was for State Attorney General. The current Attorney General, Democrat Xavier Becerra, was the top vote getter with 45% of the vote. Republican Steven Bailey was second with 25% of the vote. Democrat and current Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones secured only 14.5% of the vote and will not move onto the general election.

There no other surprises in state elections.