

State Policy and Advocacy Update

STATE ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

The Legislature convened for the first year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session on December 5, 2022. For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, legislators held the traditional swearing-in ceremony and session at the California State Capitol. The 2023-24 class of legislators includes 24 new Assemblymembers and 11 new Senators. Of these, five members are California Community College (CCC) alumni or have served as community college professors. Overall, Democrats retained their supermajority in both the Assembly (62 Democrats-18 Republicans) and Senate (31 Democrats-9 Republicans).

As part of the new session ceremonies, the Senate re-elected Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) as President pro Tempore; the Assembly re-elected Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) as Speaker until the end of June to coincide with final state budget negotiations and they named Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) as speaker-designate. Assemblymember Rivas will transition to the role of Speaker on July 1, 2023.

Additionally, the Assembly has announced its committee chairs. Assemblymember Mike Fong (D-Alhambra), a former Los Angeles Community College District Trustee, has been named chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, with Assemblymember Tri Ta (R-Westminster) named vice chair. Lastly, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) will continue to serve as chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance. As of this writing, the Senate has not announced committee assignments but is expected to finalize them in the coming days.

STATE LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

As of this writing, 175 bills have been introduced in the Legislature. Of those, the Chancellor's Office is tracking 14 that pertain to higher education; six of those have been flagged as Tier 1 and are most likely to have a direct impact on the CCCs, our faculty, and our students. A full Legislative Matrix can be found by visiting the [State Relations page on the Chancellor's Office website](http://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Government-Relations-Policy-in-Action/Policy-in-action/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation). (www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Government-Relations-Policy-in-Action/Policy-in-action/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation).

While we expect the Assembly and Senate to introduce hundreds of bills before the February 17th deadline, slow economic growth may limit the number of bills introduced and signed into law. Guided by our Legislative Principles, the Chancellor's Office will carefully examine all legislative proposals that strengthen the California Community Colleges' ability to support students' degree, program and career goals.

We have already begun our engagement with offices and partners to gain an early understanding of legislative interest and potential proposals in the next year. Some early signs points to interest in the continued expansion of dual enrollment opportunities, investments in food and housing supports, reduction of students' time-to-degree, and college affordability.

ADVOCATES

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