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# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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**Coast Community College District  
Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee  
Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Trustees Present: Trustee Prinsky and Trustee Patterson  
Trustees Absent: None

**In Attendance:** Dr. John Weispfenning, Chancellor; Dr. Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology; Erik Fallis, District Director Public Affairs and Marketing; Austin Webster, Townsend Public Affairs Senior Associate, Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs; Mary Grady, Administrative Assistant Board; Jane Burton, Manager/Board Secretary

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no requests to address the Legislative Affairs Committee during Public Comment

**4. Approval of Minutes: Meeting September 3, 2020**

On a motion by Trustee Prinsky, seconded by Trustee Patterson, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 3, 2020.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Trustee Prinsky and Trustee Patterson  
No: None  
Absent: None

**5. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Legislative Priorities for Next Year**

Mr. Austin Webster from Townsend Public Affairs provided an update for the Committee regarding legislative priorities for the following year.

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An important topic for discussion was the next COVID-19 relief package. Coast Community College District had done an excellent job of providing funds from the CARES ACT relief package to the students in 2020. The District had been impacted by costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the timing for the next COVID-19 relief package was unclear.

The Committee discussed at length ideas for providing career path opportunities for students related to reduction of the carbon footprint, wildfire fighting improvement, future water sources for California and ideas for coursework and environmental jobs where there would be additional growth in the future. New legislation and state programs were expected to be forthcoming in those areas over the next 1-2 years.

## **6. Election Updates**

The President Elect had not been confirmed at the time of the Committee meeting, however, the Biden Administration was expected to prevail. Republicans were expected to maintain control of the US Senate and Democrats were expected to maintain control of the House. Election results would continue to be monitored by Townsend Public Affairs.

California specific information was shared with the Committee. Orange County elections of concern to the District included, Harley Rouda, US Representative for CA-48<sup>th</sup> District since 2019, was in a particularly close race. Gil Cisneros, US Representative CA-39<sup>th</sup> District since 2019, was trailing in his race for re-election.

The State Assembly had a couple of open seats, however, the existing group and ratio of Democrats to Republicans was not expected to change in the Assembly.

Senate competitive races taking place included former Senator Josh Newman leading for re-election for the 29<sup>th</sup> Senate District. That district encompassed parts of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties as well as Orange County. Senator Newman had been a very good friend to the District in the past. Senator John Moorlach was in a competitive fight to hold his seat for the 37<sup>th</sup> District of California.

Senate Republicans were expected to drop 2-3 seats.

Heavy focus would continue to be maintained on budgetary considerations for the upcoming year with priorities on COVID-19 line items, full funding for the Student Centered Funding Formula, enrollment decline and other areas of concern.

It was noted that revenue received was \$2 billion higher than projected for the State of California for October 2020. Mr. Webster indicated that he would provide an update at the next meeting with a comparison from the year prior.

Proposition 15 (tax on commercial and industrial properties for education and local government funding initiative) was discussed by the Committee. The proposition

was expected to fail by a very slim margin, although it would not have a negative financial impact on the District. It was anticipated that Proposition 16 (affirmative action legislation) would not be successful.

On December 3, 2020 the new legislative year would begin, and legislators were expected to continue working remotely due to COVID-19.

## **7. Update from Orange County Legislative Task Force**

Trustee Prinsky and Chancellor Weispfenning both provided a brief summary from the Orange County Legislative Task Force meeting. Topics covered included the UCI indemnity insurance issue, international students, diversity guidelines, COVID-19 and student mental health issues.

The Chancellor expanded on the UCI indemnity insurance issue regarding students participating in clinical placements at the UCI Center. The Indemnity Agreement previously signed by the District covering one semester for Coast Community College District students was in the process of renegotiation and a favorable outcome was expected.

Chancellor Weispfenning noted that The Orange County Legislative Task Force was a great resource to acquire support from members of Congress and the Assembly, and was also a great opportunity to share and receive information with other Chancellors.

## **8. COVID-19 Updates**

Chancellor Weispfenning shared information regarding some effects of COVID-19 on the District, including financial impacts. He noted that first time student enrollments had dropped causing lost revenue, and shared COVID-19 case numbers.

## **9. Future Meeting Dates**

Future meetings were scheduled for:  
Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Federal Legislative Updates
- b. State Legislative Updates
- c. Future Legislation
- d. Legislative Priorities
- e. (January meeting - Budget Updates)

## 11. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Prinsky, seconded by Trustee Patterson, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye:	Trustee Patterson and Trustee Prinsky
No:	None
Absent:	None



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Secretary of the Board  
Jane Burton