

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org



SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEETING HELD AT THE BONITA-SUNNYSIDE LIBRARY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
April 1, 2026

Directors Present: President Felix Felix, Vice President Judy Tieber, Treasurer Stephen Stonehouse, Sharon Coleman, Mike Clowers, Richard Scott, Secretary Liz Stonehouse, and Mike Parnell.

Members Present: Jim Groth and Tony Tieber.

Guests Present: Deputy Fire Chief Mike Smith, Amanda Fredeluces, Ernesto Castaneda, and Marianne Delatorre.

- 1. Call to Order:** 6:35 PM by President Felix Felix at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room. Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Special welcome:** A welcome greeting was provided to our members, guests, representatives of our elected officials, and to those contemplating joining the SVCA.
- 3. Attendance:** Members were reminded to sign in for attendance record accuracy.
- 4. Approval of March 4, 2026 Minutes with an amendment:** Richard Scott motioned to approve: Mike Parnell seconded. Passed.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Stephen Stonehouse provided the April 2026 Treasurer's report.
 - \$3,238.59 Previous balance
 - \$45.00 PayPal to Mail Chimp
 - \$322.00 Check # 873 Paid to Keep It Growing March Web Fee
 - \$2,871.59 Ending balance

6. Bonita Fire Department: Deputy Chief Mike Smith mentioned, that ambulance compliance remains high, continuing to demonstrate the success of the District's partnership with the Chula Vista Fire Department ambulance transport system. This performance reflects their ongoing commitment to providing reliable and timely emergency medical services to the community.

For staffing, the District recently promoted Halley Rivera to the position of Engineer following a competitive promotional process. The candidates who participated demonstrated a high level of professionalism, preparation, and commitment, reflecting the strong culture and standards maintained within the organization.

District leadership recently went on a trip to meet with political representatives to seek legislative and funding support. The trips included traveling to Washington D.C. to visit the offices of Congressman Juan Vargas and Senator Adam Shiff and another to Sacramento, CA to meet with Assembly Member David Alvarez and Senator Alex Padilla. The meetings are part of ongoing efforts to secure funding for:

- a. A new fire engine
- b. Fire station improvements, including the development of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The investments are intended to enhance operational readiness and improve regional emergency response capabilities for the community.

Other improvement projects include renovating the Fire House Kitchen, which should be completed in time to prepare for the Union's Annual Bonita Fire Pancake Breakfast that is tentatively scheduled for May 30, 2026. This event will provide an opportunity for community engagement. Final details will be shared once confirmed.

Two fire engines are still in the shop. One is due back in one week, the other requires a specialized part that is on backorder for replacement. In the interim, the Sunnyside-Bonita Fire Station has been fortunate to collaborate with National City and Lakeside Fire Dept. for loaners until the engines are back in full service. Likewise, the fire station is approximately two years out for a new replacement.

7. CHP: Lt. Jeffery Lane sent in the following report. The CHP towed two vehicles and issued eight warnings for parking complaints on Briarwood Road. The owner was contacted and warned. It appeared the owner was operating a sales business, which is being investigated. The CHP will continue to follow up on this concern.

8. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

A. Marianne Delatorre, Senior Community Rep. for SD County District 1 Supervisor, Paloma Aguirre reported the following: Ms. Delatorre toured with Gina Bennett (constituent), Department of Public Works, Planning and Development, as well as, Parks and Recreation to understand the opportunity to develop micro-parks at the intersections of Bonita Rd and Central Ave., as well as, Bonita Rd and Sweetwater Rd. Concepts are being considered on how to enhance the space by installing small Community Library kiosks, historical site artifacts, image plaques or artful rustic signage, such as, "Welcome to Bonita". Feedback and incite is welcomed as there will be more to follow on this.

Additionally, following in the footsteps of Ernesto, she will be looking at hosting office hours right before the Community Planning Group meetings on Tuesday's in the library to start in the month of May.

At the Board of Supervisor's Meeting on March 25, the following was passed: Establishment of a County Consumer Fairness and Public Protection Unit to investigate and take civil action against corporate misconduct harming residents. This action targets high-impact issues like environmental pollution, insurance denials, predatory lending, consumer fraud, and housing abuses. It will establish an intake system to identify patterns and resolve complaints early.

The second item optimizes County Fleet Management to capture millions in ongoing taxpayer funds. Led by initiatives from Supervisors Monica Montgomery Steppe and Terra Lawson-Remer, the plan focuses on enhancing efficiency, strengthening existing assets, and transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs). In addition, Supervisor Aguirre alongside Supervisor Joel Anderson from District 2 are hosting an ad hoc fiscal accountability

subcommittee. This item identifies and reduces under-utilized vehicles and installs GPS and telematics in County vehicles to collect real-time, object data on how the fleet is being used.

Lastly, we have the renaming of Cesar Chavez Day as 'Farmworkers Day' in light of recent events of Cesar Chaves and Dolores Huerta's survivor story and to honor the legacy of farmworkers in our region.

Other District 1 Updates include Supervisor Aguirre hosting a tele-town (virtual) hall meeting today on affordability to discuss housing and food insecurity with some experts. You can catch the recording on her Facebook site. Also, last week staff were in Spring Valley for a coffee meet and greet, as well as, a business walk. In doing so, staff is able to understand more about local businesses and unincorporated area needs in order to provide the appropriate county resources. The goal is to help connect businesses to permitting and marketing services. If you are aware of local businesses that are deserving of the "spotlight", we would love to highlight them on our social media and be included on our business walks.

Supervisor Aguirre has been hosting tours with gubernatorial candidates on the Tijuana Sewage Crisis. This is being done in an effort to secure federal funds in the future that can only be accessed by a "State of Emergency" declaration by the governor.

B. Ernesto Castaneda, Field Rep. for Assembly Member David

Alvarez: provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the "Role of an Assembly Member". It covered the responsibilities of an Assembly person, the life of a bill, the Committees involved and Constituent services. An Assembly member is a state legislator who represents roughly 475,000 residents in a specific district, serving 2-year terms in the lower house of the state legislature. They create laws, approve the state budget, and help constituents' access state services, working on issues like education, transportation, and public safety. More specifically, their core responsibilities involve the following:

- Legislation: Introduce, analyze, and debate new state laws during the two-year legislative session.

- Budgeting: Work with the Senate and Governor to set state spending levels and raise/lower taxes.
- Committees: Serve on specialized standing committees to review and refine legislation before it is voted on by the full assembly.
- Representation: Serve constituents by connecting them to state agencies and advocating for local needs in Sacramento.

For more information, see attached pdf presentation on the subject matter.

C. Amanda Fredeluces, Chief of Staff for John McCann reported the following: The Mayor’s State of the City Address will be Tuesday, April 28th from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center. Refreshments and appetizers will be served at the venue. She also mentioned there has been no updates regarding the Rohr Park Master Plan. However, they are still accepting community input. If you have not done so and would like to, please send your questions, comments, or concerns to: JMcCann@chulavistaca.gov. It is important to note that Mayor McCann is in-support of including the Horse Arena in the master plan. Please feel free to share your concerns on this as it is being tracked and shared with city staff.

9. Continuing Business:

A. SVCA Website Redesign & Maintenance Bid Selection Review

Update: We held presentations for web designers: Boost Yr Style, Keep-It-Growing, and eSEO Space on Tuesday, March 24th, 8AM-11AM at the Bonita Museum. The Public was welcome to observe and ask questions. After presentations, the Board went into closed session and after much deliberation, the consensus was to award Keep-It-Growing – Web Design \$7,225 and Maintenance Fees of \$210/3 hrs - \$510/8 hrs per month.

B. Discussion to create a Sheriff/CHP panel for more presence

Update: Membership had a consensus to hold another panel with our Sheriff and CHP to continue our discussion of having more law enforcement presence in the community. We have already reached out to invite CHP, Lt. Jeffery Lane and felt it would be good timing to ask our District 1 Supervisor to facilitate having SD County Sheriff’s Office, Lt. Christopher Galve, SD County Sheriff’s Office, Crime Prevention Specialist, Jose Ortiz and Chief, Departmental Operations Code Compliance, Conor McGee to

show up so that we can have a proactive discussion to figure out ways to reduce speeding and crime, and increase public safety and quality of life in our community.

Marianne Delatorre mentioned that staff can collaborate with the CHP, Sheriff, Code Enforcement, Chula Vista Police to include District 1 Board Supervisor Aguirre to create a Public Safety Forum to discuss these issues and create a strategic plan with short and long-term realistic goals.

Mike Clowers and Jim Groth mentioned the importance of community involvement in addressing our issues at the County level. It's a proactive process of engagement that creates change in policies.

10. New Business:

A. Create a Nomination Committee for SVCA Elections in June

2026: SVCA President Felix asked for two volunteers to assume the role of the Nomination Committee in order to prepare for the up and coming SVCA Elections. Directors, Mike Clowers and Mike Parnell volunteered their services. Mr. Clowers asked about the process for assuming the role of Nomination Committee and how to qualify a potential candidate. President Felix mentioned that we need to follow our Bylaws and remind our members that they need to show up consecutively to two meetings in order to be considered for an elected position. As a result of the June elections fast approaching, the consensus was to consider extending the elections from June to September 2026 in order for the Nomination Committee to have time they needed to create a nomination list. A motion was made by Director Mike Parnell and seconded by Vice President, Judy and it passed unanimously. Treasurer, Steve Stonehouse, who was on the Committee last year mentioned that he would provide the new Nomination Committee with the previous email message used to solicit candidates. Secretary, Liz mentioned that she would distribute the emails and letters to members.

B. Discussion of Membership Drive in June 2026: SVCA Vice President, Judy mentioned that she was working on an informative letter to include holding a Public Safety Forum and having a guest speaker like District 1 Board Supervisor Aguirre attend to boost our membership drive

at the June, August or Sept. 2026 meeting. Director, Sharon mentioned that the Membership Drive should align with District 1 Board Supervisor providing the "State of Bonita Address". Senior Community Rep., Marianne Delatorre thought it would be a great opportunity to address the latest progress updates for the community. She will coordinate with staff and District 1 Supervisor Aguirre to lock down her availability and get back with us.

C. Create a Committee to advance community engagement, support and concept development of a Bonita Community Recreation Center to be located at the soon-to-be vacated County Animal Shelter property:

Vice President Judy is excited about the idea to engage the County, community residents and other stakeholders to support the concept of developing a Bonita Community Rec Center. Senior Community Rep., Marianne Delatorre mentioned that District 1 Board Supervisor, Aguirre has talked about the idea and it is possible to realize it coming to fruition. However, we need to get the Dept. of Parks and Rec involved in the discussion and design plans would eventually need to be reviewed by the SCPG. For a realistic timeline, it could be 2 - 3 years out. President Felix, asked Judy if she wanted to volunteer to be the Chair of the Committee and she said yes. Treasurer, Steve Stonehouse and Secretary, Liz Stonehouse also volunteered to be on the Committee. Member Jim Groth made a motion to approve the creation of a Committee to advance community engagement, support and concept development of a Bonita Community Rec. Center for the soon to be vacated county Animal Shelter. Director Mike Clowers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11. Community Forum:

A. County Traffic Advisory Committee Mike Clowers, updates:

Mike Clowers reported that there was a TAC meeting on Friday. The public is welcome to show up to the meetings to observe and partake.

B. SVCA Membership: Judy noted that we have 68 members: 28 gold and 40 paid. It's time to start preparing for our membership drive and update our membership application.

12. Other Announcements & Items not on the Agenda: Member, Jim Groth mentioned that kids with e-bikes are traversing on the Golf Course pathways. He would like to find out who to talk to about getting more signs put up to remind people about the rules for trails and pathways. Director, Mike Clowers mentioned the difference between e-bikes and e-motorcycles. Director, Sharon also mentioned that this is becoming a big problem with kids riding around in packs on e-motorcycles. Chief of Staff for John McCann, Amanda Fredeluces mentioned that the City of Chula Vista recognizes the issue with e-bikes and will looking into it by contacting code enforcement and Parks and Rec.

13. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Stonehouse, Secretary

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (SVCA) fosters and promotes community spirit and civic pride through proactive engagement with the County, local elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, emergency first responders, and community groups/organizations with the goal of improving the quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley community.



DAVID ALVAREZ

Assemblymember, District 80

ROLE OF AN ASSEMBLYMEMBER

California State Assembly

Office of Assemblymember David Alvarez, District 80

Field Representative, Ernesto Castañeda

AGENDA

- California State Legislature
- What is an Assemblymember?
- What do Assemblymember's do?
- Life of a bill
- Committees
- Constituent Services
- Q&A



CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

80 STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

WE ARE IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 80

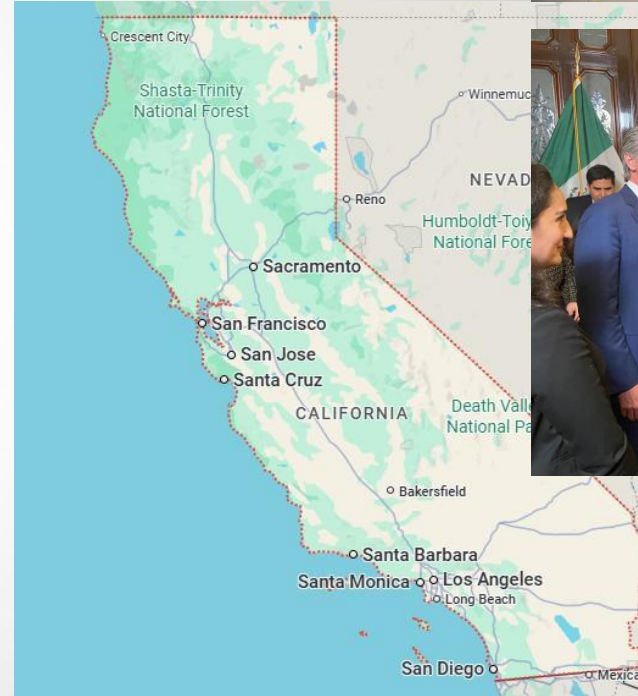


40 STATE SENATE DISTRICTS

WE ARE IN SENATE DISTRICT 18



1 GOVERNOR



WHAT IS A CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER

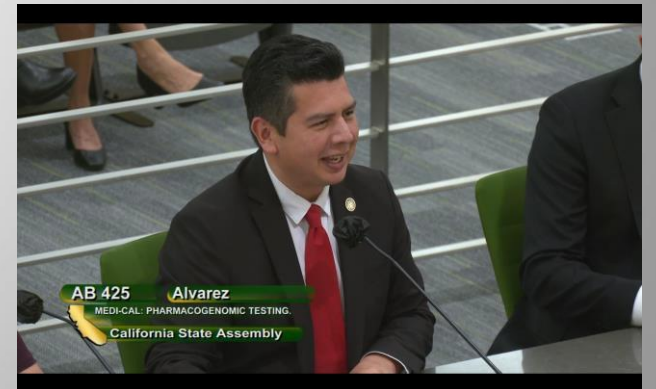
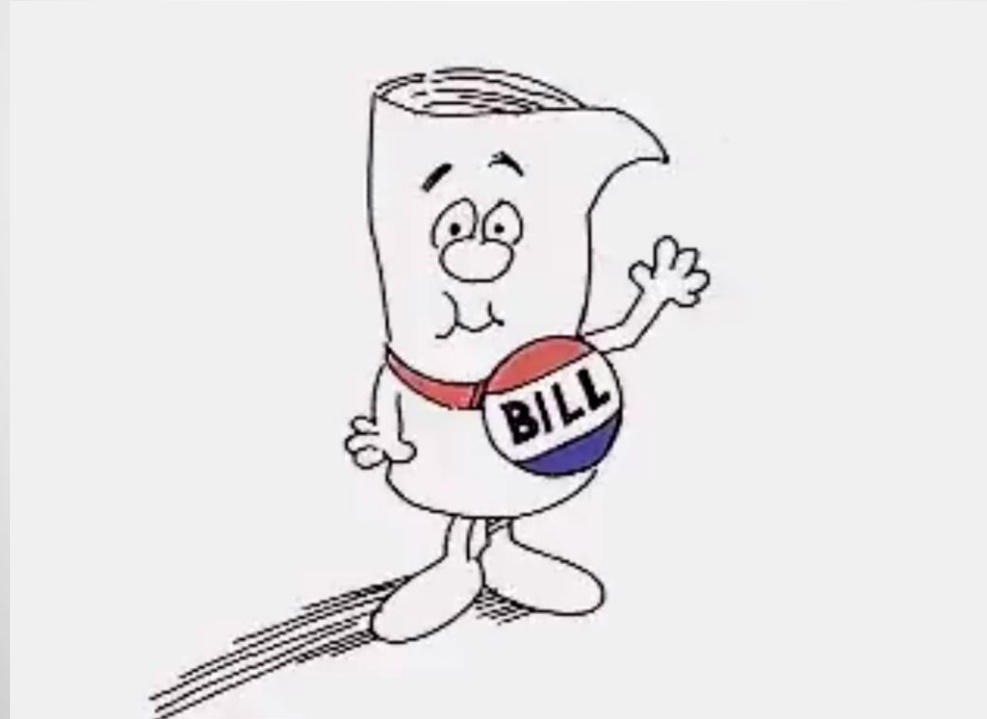
- 2-year terms, 12 years total
- Main roles:
 - Pass legislation (Assembly Bills)
 - Vote on legislation – collectively decide how money gets spent
 - Meet w/ constituents, community organizations, local leaders, etc.
- Sit on committees
 - ~ 5-20 Assemblymembers per committee
- Two offices
 1. District Office (Chula Vista)
 2. Capitol Office (Sacramento)



WHAT DO ASSEMBLYMEMBERS DO?

ASSEMBLYMEMBERS PASS BILLS IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

LIFE OF A BILL IN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 80



LIFE OF A BILL



AB 35 Alvarez

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT: EXEMPTION: PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND SELECTION CRITERIA.
California State Assembly File # 27



AB 35 Alvarez

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT: EXEMPTION: PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND SELECTION CRITERIA.
California State Assembly

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|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ▲ ADDIS | ▲ DAVIES | ▲ JOHNSON | RODRIGUEZ, C. |
| ▲ AGUIAR-CURRY | ▲ DEMAIO | ▲ KALRA | ▲ RODRIGUEZ, M. |
| ▲ AHRENS | ▲ DIXON | ▲ KRELL | ▲ ROGERS |
| ▲ ALANIS | ▲ ELHAWARY | ▲ LACKEY | ▲ RUBIO |
| ▲ ALVAREZ | ▲ ELLIS | ▲ LEE | ▲ SANCHEZ |
| ▲ ARAMBULA | ▲ FLORA | ▲ LOWENTHAL | ▲ SCHIAVO |
| ▲ ÁVILA FARIÁS | ▲ FONG | ▲ MACEDO | ▲ SCHULTZ |
| ▲ BAINS | ▲ GABRIEL | ▲ MCKINNON | ▲ SHARP-COLLINS |
| ▲ BAUER-KAHAN | ▲ GALLAGHER | ▲ MURATSUCHI | ▲ SOLACHE |
| ▲ BENNETT | ▲ GARCIA | ▲ NGUYEN | ▲ SORIA |
| ▲ BERMAN | ▲ GIPSON | ▲ ORTEGA | ▲ STEFANI |
| ▲ BOERNER | ▲ GONZALEZ, J. | ▲ PACHECO | ▲ TA |
| ▲ BONTA | ▲ GONZÁLEZ, M. | ▲ PAPAN | ▲ TANGIPA |
| ▲ BRYAN | ▲ HADWICK | ▲ PATEL | ▲ VALENCIA |
| ▲ CALDERON | ▲ HANEY | ▲ PATTERSON | ▲ WALLIS |
| ▲ CALOZA | ▲ HARABEDIAN | ▲ PELLERIN | ▲ WARD |
| ▲ CARRILLO | ▲ HART | ▲ PETRIE-NORRIS | ▲ WICKS |
| ▲ CASTILLO | ▲ HOOVER | ▲ QUIRK-SILVA | ▲ WILSON |
| ▲ CHEN | ▲ IRWIN | ▲ RAMOS | ▲ ZBUR |
| ▲ CONNOLLY | ▲ JACKSON | ▲ RANSOM | ▲ MR. SPEAKER |

Assembly Third Reading
AB 35 Alvarez

FILE:27

▲ AYE 62 ▼ NO 0 VOTE:2/3



~70 TOTAL COMMITTEES IN THE ASSEMBLY

Committees

Standing Committees These are permanent committees

- Budget - Member
- Education - Member
- Insurance - Member
- Governmental Organization - Member
- Water, Parks, and Wildlife - Member

Subcommittees Smaller specialized groups within a standing committee

- Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance - Chair

Select Committees Temporary committees for specific issues

- Select Committee on California-Mexico Bi-National Affairs - Member
- Select Committee on the Transportation Costs and Impact of the Low Fuel Standard (LCFS) - Co-Chair

Joint Committees Includes both Houses & focuses on issues that affect all

- Joint Legislative Budget - Member

FLOOR AND COMMITTEE HEARINGS ARE STREAMED

Events

All Today Upcoming Past



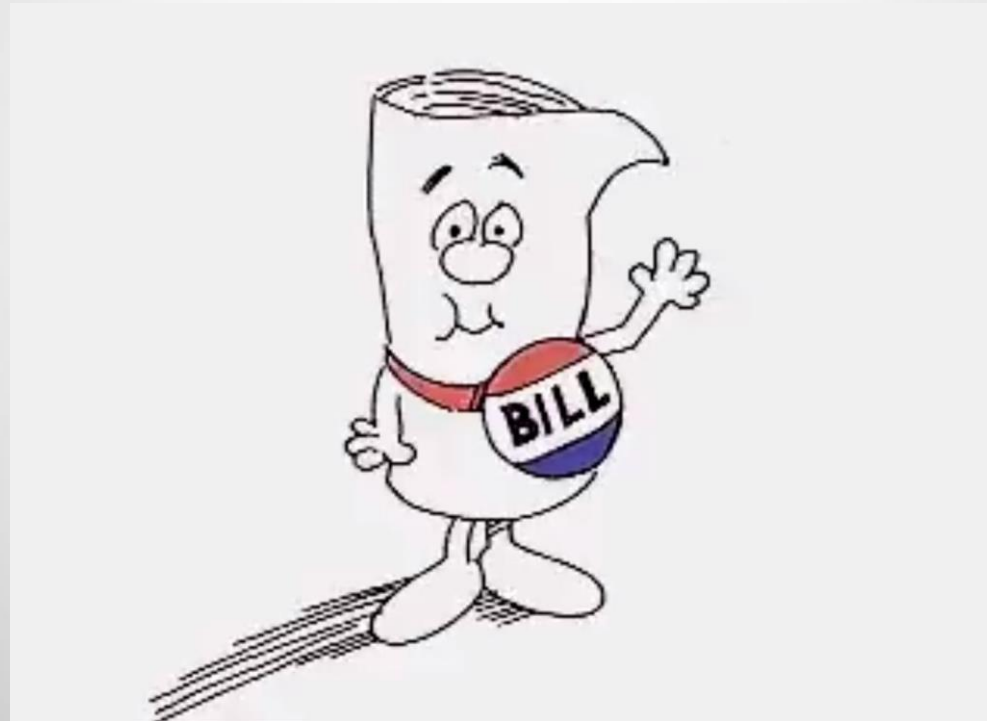
Regular Session

The Assembly has adjourned until Thursday, January 29th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

[View Agenda](#)

BILL PASSED ASSEMBLY!

NOW WHAT?



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

ASSEMBLY FLOOR

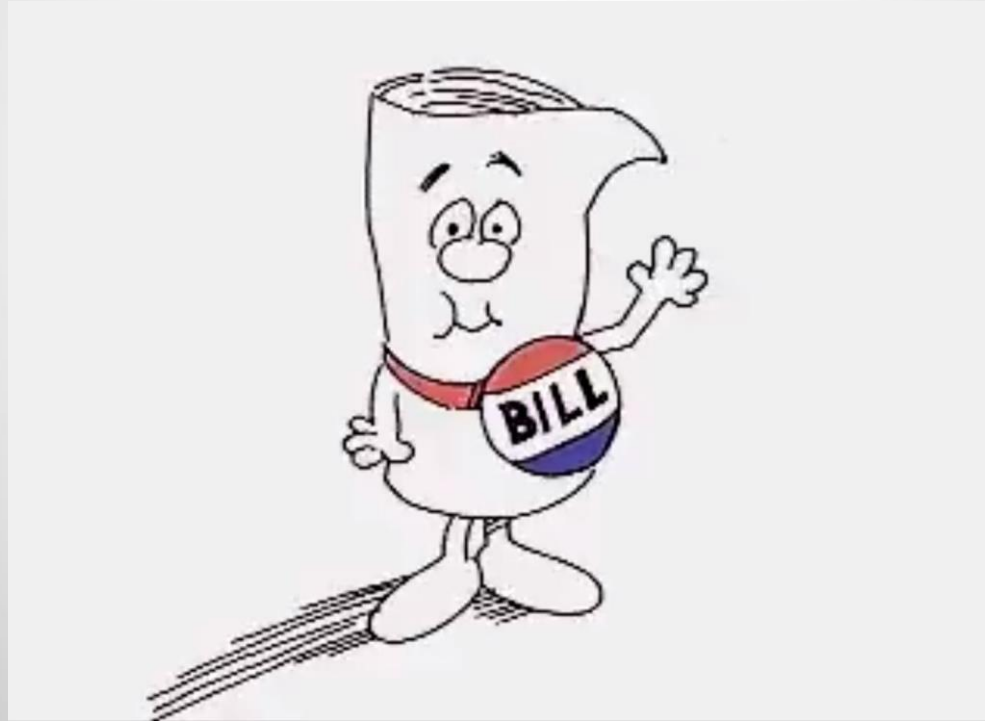


SENATE FLOOR



BILL PASSED ASSEMBLY AND SENATE!

NOW WHAT?



GOVERNOR'S DESK

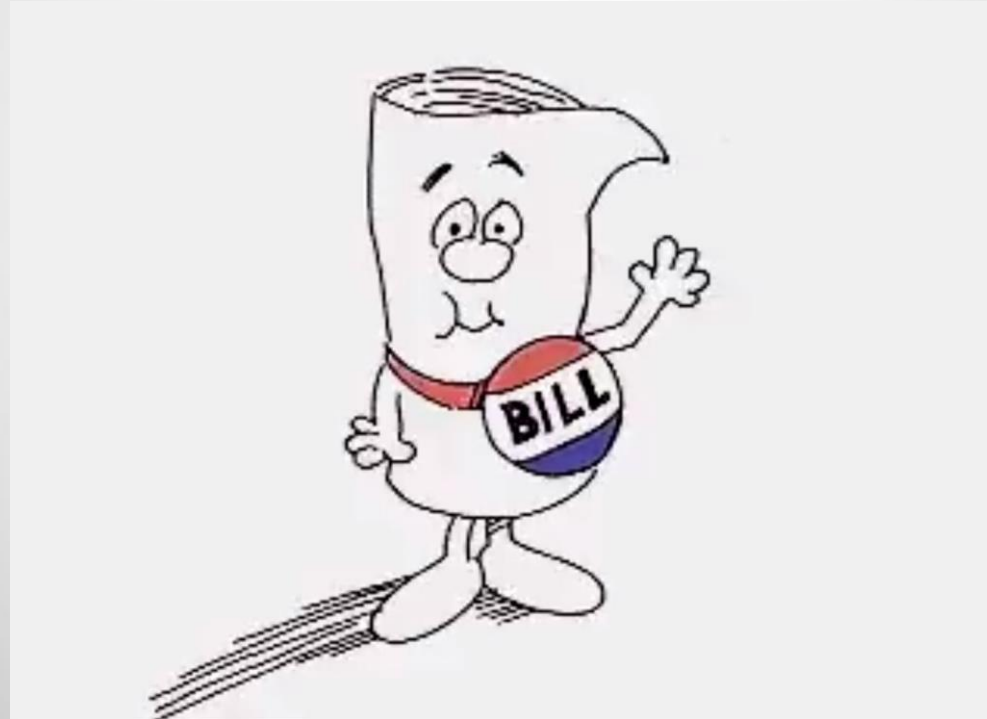
Governor can do 3 things:

1. Sign it
2. Veto it
3. Do nothing
 - If Legislature is in session, the Governor has 12 days to act.
 - If Governor does nothing, the law will take effect
 - If Legislature is not in session, the Governor has 30 days to act.
 - If Governor does nothing, bill dies
 - This is known as a "pocket veto"



**BILL PASSED ASSEMBLY AND SENATE AND
WAS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR**

NOW WHAT?



BILL BECOMES CALIFORNIA STATE LAW :-)



WHAT CAN A STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER DO FOR YOU?

STATE ASSEMBLY HAS JURISDICTION OVER STATE AGENCIES
NEED HELP WITH A STATE AGENCY?

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

- DMV
- Unemployment & Disability Insurance
- Veterans Benefits
- Medi-Cal & Covered California
- State Taxes
- Foreclosure Prevention Programs

STATE INFORMATION

- State budget
- State agency contacts
- State capitol tours
- Government Forms

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

- Express an opinion
- Propose a new law
- Ask for copies, summaries, and information on bills
- Information on how a bill becomes law
- Legislative hearings

Take hand outs for more information!

Q&A

