



Friends Committee on Legislation of California

October 2025

FCLCA UPDATE – END OF LEGISLATIVE YEAR REPORT

The 2025 legislative year has now ended -- 2,397 bills were introduced at the start of the year, with 917 bills passed and sent to Gov. Newsom, who had until Monday October 13 to act on the bills. He signed 794 of them and vetoed 123, a slightly lower veto rate than last year.

Thanks to your support, FCLCA was able to weigh in on 113 bills and to lobby extensively on the 2025-26 state budget to protect our progress in health care accessibility and economic security. (For more info, please see the Our Work section at www.fclca.org). FCLCA supporters sent in 1,717 messages to their legislators through our Action Alert system that facilitates civic engagement and grassroots lobbying.

Here's a sample of some of the key legislation we were able to advocate for because of you.

Protecting Immigrant Rights

These three bills were signed by the governor and go into effect immediately with an urgency clause:

SB 81: Safe Spaces in Health Care Facilities (Arreguin). SB 81 promotes a safe environment for patient care by requiring healthcare providers to establish procedures for receiving visitors; to designate nonpublic areas that anyone seeking to enter would need a valid judicial warrant or court order to access; and to protect current and previous immigration status and place of birth from disclosure to immigration authorities.

AB 49: California Safe Haven Schools Act (Muratsuchi). AB 49 limits immigration enforcement officers from entering a school site for any purpose without a valid judicial warrant or court order and without meeting certain other requirements.

SB 98: Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education: Notice of Immigration Enforcement (Perez). SB 98 requires school districts, county offices of education and

charter schools to notify students, parents, faculty, staff and community members whenever immigration enforcement officers are on a school site.

Also signed by the governor:

SB 627: No Masking Bill (Wiener). SB 627 prohibits law enforcement officers from wearing a facial covering that conceals or obscures their facial identity in the performance of their duties, apart from some exceptions and SB 805: Law Enforcement Impersonation and Identification. SB 805 requires a law enforcement officer operating in California that is not uniformed to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number.

AB 1261: Youth Access to Counsel (Bonta). AB 1261 seeks to protect children and youth from the Trump administration's mass deportations by expanding access to legal counsel, subject to the availability of funding, to every immigrant youth in California facing deportation in immigration court without a lawyer.

Economic Justice and Worker Rights

The governor signed these bills:

SB 590: Paid Family Leave (Durazo). SB 590 allows individuals to use paid family leave (PFL) to care for "chosen family" starting in 2028.

SB 294: The Workplace Know Your Rights Act (Reyes). SB 294 requires that employers provide annual notices to employees about their constitutional rights when interacting with law enforcement, available in multiple languages.

SB 578: California Workplace Outreach Program (Smallwood-Cuevas). SB 578 extends through 2031 the California Workplace Outreach Program (CWOP), which funds community-based organizations to conduct outreach and education to workers on priority topics related to labor protections, health and safety, and wage and hour laws.

Criminal Justice Reform

Gov. Newsom signed AB 1071 (Kalra), which strengthens the California Racial Justice Act (RJA) enacted in 2020 to address racial discrimination and bias in criminal proceedings. AB 1071 addresses ongoing procedural barriers that impede the filing of RJA claims and clarifies that the court must find a remedy when racial bias is discovered.

SB 672 (Rubio) would allow young people up to age 25 serving a sentence of life- without-parole to become eligible for a youth offender parole hearing, provided they have served 25 years in prison. SB 672 passed the Senate on a party line vote. It has since become a two-year bill to take late amendments into consideration.

AB 1229 (Schultz) and (Quirk-Silva) would make various reforms to the Adult Reentry Grant Program in order to reduce homelessness among the formerly incarcerated and transfers the program from the Board of State and Community Corrections to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). It is now a two-year bill in order to give HCD more time to work through the questions concerning the transfer.

Environmental Bills

These important bills became “Two-Year Bills” that will return next year. With your support, FCLCA will continue our advocacy in 2026!

AB 1448 (Hart) would close loopholes to ensure that existing oil platforms and pipelines in state waters cannot be used to expand federal offshore drilling. The bill stalled on the Senate floor and is now a two-year bill. SB 542 (Limón) prohibits the restart of an existing oil pipeline that has been idle for five or more years without first undergoing hydrostatic testing to reduce the risk of oil spills. After passing the full Senate in June, the bill stalled on the Assembly Floor in the closing days of the session and is now a two-year bill.

In addition to the enormous costs of rebuilding and recovery from the Los Angeles wildfires, California is facing an insurance affordability crisis. SB 222 (Wiener), the Affordable Insurance and Climate Recovery Act, would create a private right of action for parties injured by climate disasters and extreme weather events to recover their losses from oil and gas companies and creates a direct cause of action for insurers to recover their losses. After facing strong opposition from the oil industry and oil industry labor unions, SB 222 failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Reconsideration was granted and it will have to pass the full Senate by January 31, 2026, to advance to the Assembly.

AB 1243 (Addis) and SB 684 (Menjívar) would enact the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act. The bills create a Polluters Pay Superfund to be administered by CalEPA to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by fossil fuel burning. AB 1243 passed the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources but was not taken up by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. SB 684 passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee but was not taken up by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Organizing efforts are underway to mobilize support in legislative districts from constituents and local governments. Both bills have until January 31, 2026, to pass their respective houses.

It was so important that California took a stand this year in the face of federal threats, funding cuts and actions against vulnerable communities. FCLCA was able to be here in Sacramento - bringing a voice of conscience for a 73rd year – because of people like you. Thanks again!