

PULSE OF THE PUBLIC



A lectern awaits the arrival of House Democrats to speak on the health care funding fight on the steps of the House at the Capitol in Washington. J. Scott Applewhite – Associated Press, 2025

It's time for a change of leadership in California

Editor: After two gubernatorial debates, why would anyone elect another Democrat?

Facts and statistics don't lie. California is desperately struggling with economic survival. Progressive policies are extremely expensive, and California is beyond expensive.

Billions spent on homelessness, and the problem is worse than ever. Open borders, the highest number of undocumented immigrants, a failing health care system, a failing education system, failing infrastructure, the highest cost of living, the highest cost of gasoline and the nation's largest entitlement programs.

California has been under Democratic control for over a decade; why would anyone vote for the insanity to continue? For California's future the time is now for new leadership.

— Wayne Stewart, Sonoma

Put the health care of Americans first in making election choices

Editor: At a time when Americans are struggling with rising health care costs and shrinking access, it is more important than ever to ensure that medical decisions are guided by patients' needs — not corporate influence.

My daughter is a nurse, and she sees every day how patients struggle to afford both their medications and the care they need.

That is why I commend Eric Jones for signing the nurses association's "Patients Over Profits" pledge. His commitment reflects both principle and lived experience. As the son of a nurse, he understands these challenges, and he has developed real expertise in health care policy. He has made clear that one of his top priorities is ensuring affordable health care for all Americans.

By contrast, Mike Thompson continues to accept tens of thousands of dollars from health care-related political action committees, including those tied to companies such as United Healthcare and Pfizer. When elected officials take money from insurers and pharmaceutical companies, it raises serious questions about whose interests are being represented. It's time to take powerful health care corporations out of politics and put the health of Americans first.

— Maria Campbell, Sonoma

Sonoma Developmental Center still overgrown and out of compliance; state still silent

Editor: Thank you for your April 24 article about the fire hazard at the SDC ("Vegetation cut at former Sonoma Developmental Center," A1). Unfortunately, the California Conservation Corps crew did very little and have not returned.

Did you ever hear back from DGS? I suspect you have not. If you have, the community would love to know what they said.

I contacted the Governor's office and they told me to call State Parks. My attempt to tell them that the campus is not part of the State Park system fell on deaf ears. I sent a message later that same day to repeat my request for action, but no response.

A recent Press Democrat editorial praised state Sen. Mike McGuire for being a wildfire prevention expert. I contacted his office but have not heard back.

There is a wall of unresponsive silence that is impossible to penetrate. Zero sense of urgency from the State and zero communication. Fire season is rapidly approaching and it will take time to remediate the abundant weeds.

A follow up article will be greatly appreciated. Even if you have zero responses, please print that fact with photos.

Our lives and properties are at risk.

— Sharon Church, Glen Ellen