



NOVEMBER LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As we transition into November, it's essential to reflect on recent legislative developments and their implications for Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) and the communities we serve. The November 5, 2024, general election brought several significant outcomes, particularly concerning the 10 ballot propositions that have the potential to impact American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities.

STATE UPDATES

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS):

- **State Plan Amendments (SPAs):**
 - **Summary of Proposed Changes:** This proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA 24-0032) is to add **Certified Wellness Coach (CWC)** services as a covered Medi-Cal benefit starting January 1, 2025. This initiative, part of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI), aims to increase access to preventive behavioral health support for children and youth through non-clinical services like wellness promotion, care coordination, and crisis referrals. While this addition could enhance behavioral health support for Medi-Cal members, reimbursement limitations apply to Tribal Health Programs (THPs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), which may impact their ability to fully utilize these services. [Comments Due December 22](#)

ELECTIONS

As of November 21, 2024, the outcomes of California's 10 ballot propositions from the November 5, 2024, general election are as follows:

- **Proposition 1: Behavioral Health Services Program and Bond Measure**
 - **Outcome:** Passed.
 - **Details:** This measure authorizes bonds to fund behavioral health services and housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Proposition 2: Public Education Facilities Bond Measure**
 - **Outcome:** Passed.
 - **Details:** Approves the issuance of bonds to construct and modernize public education facilities, including K-12 schools and community colleges.
- **Proposition 3: Right to Marry and Repeal Proposition 8 Amendment**
 - **Outcome:** Passed.
 - **Details:** Amends the state constitution to affirm the fundamental right to marry, regardless of sex or race, effectively repealing Proposition 8.
- **Proposition 4: Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure**
 - **Outcome:** Passed.
 - **Details:** Authorizes bonds to fund projects related to parks, environmental conservation, energy efficiency, and water infrastructure.
- **Proposition 5: Lower Vote Threshold for Local Special Taxes and Bond Measures**

- **Outcome:** Passed.
 - **Details:** Reduces the voter approval requirement from two-thirds to 55% for local special taxes and bond measures aimed at funding housing projects.
- **Proposition 6: Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment**
 - **Outcome:** Passed.
 - **Details:** Eliminates language in the state constitution that permits involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime.
- **Proposition 32: Minimum Wage Increase**
 - **Outcome:** Failed.
 - **Details:** Proposed increasing the state minimum wage to \$18 per hour by 2026. Voters rejected this measure.
- **Proposition 33: Prohibit State Limitations on Local Rent Control**
 - **Outcome:** Failed.
 - **Details:** Sought to repeal the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, allowing local governments to enact rent control on more properties. Voters rejected this proposition.
- **Proposition 34: Taxpayer Approval Requirement for New Taxes**
 - **Outcome:** Failed.
 - **Details:** Would have required any new state or local taxes to receive two-thirds voter approval. Voters did not pass this measure.
- **Proposition 36: Increased Penalties for Certain Crimes**
 - **Outcome:** Passed.
 - **Details:** Increases penalties for specific drug and theft crimes, including reclassifying certain offenses as felonies.
- [California General Election: Unofficial Election Results](#)
- **State Representative Outcome** California State Assembly: All 80 seats in the State Assembly were contested. The Democratic Party maintained its majority, though specific seat counts and notable shifts are still being finalized. [California Election Results](#)
 - **California State Senate:** In the State Senate, half of the 40 seats were up for election. A significant development occurred in a purple district where Democratic State Senator Josh Newman conceded to former GOP Assemblymember Steven Choi. Newman's loss was influenced by opposition from labor unions and the challenges posed by redistricting.
 - **U.S. House of Representatives:** California's 52 congressional districts were contested. Notably, Republican Ken Calvert secured reelection in the 41st Congressional District.

Overall, while Democrats continue to hold a majority of California's seats in the U.S. House, there have been shifts in certain districts, reflecting evolving political dynamics within the state.

To delve deeper into these results and their implications for UIOs and urban AIAN communities, we will host a post-election webinar in early December. This session will provide a comprehensive analysis of the election outcomes and their anticipated impact on our advocacy efforts and policy priorities.

Stay tuned for the webinar details and registration link, which will be shared soon!

FEDERAL UPDATES

The 2024 United States elections, held on November 5, resulted in significant shifts at the federal level:

Presidential Election:

- Former President Donald Trump was re-elected, defeating Vice President Kamala Harris.

Congressional Elections:

- **Senate:** Republicans regained control by winning key races in Ohio, West Virginia, and Montana, and maintaining seats in Texas and Florida.
- **House of Representatives:** Republicans secured the necessary 218 seats for a majority, finalizing their control by November 13.

These outcomes grant the Republican Party control over the executive and legislative branches, enabling them to advance their policy agenda with minimal opposition. Key areas of focus include conservative judicial nominations, strict immigration policies, and the revival of energy projects.

The election also marked historic milestones, such as the election of two Black women to the Senate for the first time. Additionally, Republicans won eight out of eleven gubernatorial races, including a significant victory by Kelly Ayotte in New Hampshire.

These developments are expected to influence legislative priorities and policy directions in the upcoming congressional sessions.

IHS UPDATES

- **CONFER AND LETTERS FOR COMMENT**
- **[Urban Confer: Proposed Reorganization of DDIGA Offices](#)**
 - Virtual Webinar [Registration](#): Wednesday, November 13th 12-2pm PST
 - [Enclosure organization map](#)

POLICY ENGAGEMENTS IN OCTOBER

- Covered California Tribal Consultation
- CPEHN Board Meeting
- CPCA Biweekly Member
- CPCA Leg/Reg Committee
- CPCA Annual Conference
- RAC Monthly Directors
- NCUIH Policy Workgroup

- OUIHP Urban Program Executive Directors
- Children's Partnership Conference
- CalAIM Indian Health - Transportation Committee
- CalAIM IHP Quarterly Meeting
- DHCS Behavioral Health Transformation - Quality & Equity Advisory Committee
- County Behavioral Health Directors
- Racial Equity Commission
- CPCA Peer Networking/Legislative and Regulatory
- California Racial Equity Coalition
- PATH Coalition
- Tribes and Indian Health Program Representative
- Kaiser Permanente CAC
- CDPH Tribal Health Equity Advisory
- ITUP Policy Forum
- Dental Therapy Government Relations
- CalAIM IHP

Legislative Report prepared by CCUIH Director of Policy & Planning Nanette Star nanette@ccuih.org and CCUIH Executive Director Virginia Hedrick virginia@ccuih.org