



CAPITOL ADVOCACY

**California Automatic Vendors Council**  
**Legislative Update**  
**Presented by: Jennifer Roe, Capitol Advocacy**  
**January 23, 2025**

---

**2024 General Election Update**

While the 2024 General Election took place some time ago now, a post-election update is still in order. There are a few key takeaways from this election that are especially of importance here in California:

- The state remains deeply blue, however, for the first time in 40 years, Senate Republicans were able to flip an incumbent seat. On the Assembly side, Assembly Republicans were able to pick up two seats that were previously held by Democrats but were vacated due to term limits.
- Of note were the outcomes of two contentious ballot measures, as voters elected to deny raising the state's minimum wage to \$18 per hour, and elected to pass Proposition 36, the retail and drug offense measure.

Immediately following the election, Governor Newsom announced that, in response to Trump's victory, California would once again become home to the "resistance," and called a special session to "Trump Proof" the state. This includes appropriating a proposed \$25 million to the Department of Justice for use in litigation against the Trump Administration. Most recently, following President Trump's inauguration this week and a flurry of executive orders, Attorney General Bonta filed his first lawsuit against the Trump Administration challenging the executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship.

**2025-26 Legislative Session**

The Legislature returned for the 2025-26 Legislative Session on January 6, with a substantial number of new members joining the ranks. These new members, of which there are 29, will need quite a bit of educating on our issues to get them up to speed.

So far, one bill of particular interest has been introduced: SB 45 by Senator Steve Padilla. This bill is a reintroduction of a bill from a few sessions ago which would require beverage containers to have a tethered plastic cap.



## CAPITOL ADVOCACY

Otherwise, we anticipate a reintroduction of Assemblymember Ortega's bill on prison and jail contracts for visiting rooms. However, we have heard that this year's effort will target the complaint process at the Department of Rehabilitation.

### **Other Issues to Anticipate**

As Trump's "Make America Health Again" agenda plays out at the federal level, we will see efforts from California to continue to be forward thinking, and "first," on many of these issues. For example, in recent years, we have seen bills which proposed to ban certain food dyes – it is likely we will see similar measures this session.

On the environmental front, we will likely see more efforts to curb the use of single-use plastics. To that end, the Senate Environmental Quality Committee has a new chair, Catherine Blakespear (D – Encinitas), who has signaled that this issue will be a key priority of hers.

Finally, you have likely heard that just before Trump's inauguration, in the waning days of the Biden Administration, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), pulled the outstanding waiver to implement their Advanced Clean Fleet rules. While the rules still stand in California, the waiver would have allowed the state to enforce against companies that were noncompliant. In the absence of a waiver, CARB has signaled they will work with companies on voluntary compliance and essentially wait out the Trump term to try again.

### **Additional Updates**

A few key dates to keep in mind:

- February 21<sup>st</sup> marks the deadline for bills to be introduced.
- Either March 5<sup>th</sup> or March 12<sup>th</sup> are dates we are hoping to nail down for our lobby day.