

# FCL NEWSLETTER



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## Legislative Voting Record, 2008-09

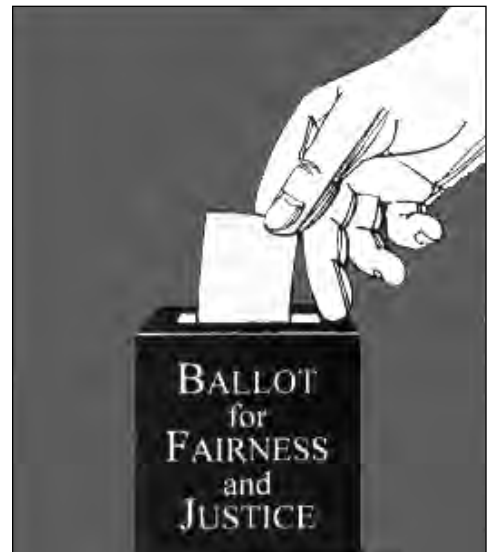
No discussion of legislative voting record is complete without discussing the state's ongoing budget dilemma. As we go to press, Republicans and Democrats remain stalemated on closing the state's \$15 billion budget deficit for a record 72 days. Readers of these pages know that our state's chronic budget problems are aggravated by the fact that our state is one of three (Arkansas and Rhode Island are the others) that requires a two-thirds super-majority to pass a budget.

Without a resolution, the impact of the delay will soon become more severe at the local level. Among the nearly \$8 billion in new bills the state will not pay without a budget are \$3 billion for Medi-Cal providers and \$1 billion for public schools. Community colleges will be out nearly a half a billion dollars. Mental health programs will lose over \$700 million, regional developmental services nearly \$600 million and other social service programs nearly \$900 million.

While Democrats have proposed revenue increases combined with spending cuts, Republicans adamantly refuse to accept any tax increases and have instead proposed additional cuts in services to the poor, elderly and disabled, shifting home care to local governments and borrowing against future lottery receipts. Governor Schwarzenegger has stressed the need to put practicality above ideology – welcome words for an ideologically polarized legislature – and has retreated from his earlier “no new taxes” stance. The governor has proposed a one percent increase in the state's sales tax for three years, but even with the added gimmick of decreasing the sales tax by a one and one quarter percent after he has left office, he has been unable to persuade fellow Republicans to go along.

Republicans contend that the state has a spending problem and not a revenue problem and have proposed amending

the state Constitution to give the governor sole discretion to cut state spending and limit state spending growth to increases in inflation and population. Under the proposed amendment, revenue collections in excess of these limits would be put into a rainy day reserve fund.



Graphic credit: Religious Society of Friends in Britain, Teesvalley Quaker Meeting

According to the *Sacramento Bee* (“On the rocky road to the 2008-09 budget,” August 20, 2008), since 2002-03, state spending has increased 33 percent, while inflation and population growth combined have increased by 24 percent.

These numbers belie the fact that the largest increases in spending are for items which Californians care deeply about, namely education and health care. In 1988, voters approved Proposition 98 to guarantee schools (K-14) approximately

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*“The Friends Committee on Legislation (FCL), guided by Quaker values, advocates for California state laws that are just, compassionate and respectful of the inherent worth of every person.”*

## **Legislative Voting Record** (Continued from page 1)

40 percent of state revenues. Proposition 98 ties education funding to increases in state revenue. As result, education funding is slated for annual increases, even in those years when the state is running deficits. Moreover, as the general population ages, the cost of health care will continue to increase. The governor's failure to sign universal health care legislation in 2006 guaranteed that health care costs will continue to increase well beyond the rate of inflation. Governor Schwarzenegger has another opportunity to demonstrate that practicality and people's lives matter more than ideology by signing the California Universal Health Care Act (Senate Bill 840), which the Legislature passed in the closing days of the session.

Governor Schwarzenegger's first official act upon taking office was to slash the Vehicle License Fee, while promising that the state would pay local governments for the lost revenue, which is now a \$6 billion expenditure. Moreover, the costs of incarceration have increased by 75 percent during the same period as a result of our state's failure to enact sentencing and parole reforms. Prison health care has been put under federal receivership, and Clark Kelso, the receiver, has asked a federal court to order the Legislature to appropriate \$8 billion (\$3 billion in the 2008-09 budget year) for prison health care beds, after the Legislature rejected legislation to authorize another \$8 billion by issuing lease-revenue bonds.

Voters have also approved initiatives to set aside General Fund revenues for specific purposes like transportation and after school programs. Nearly \$17 billion in new bonds are on the November General Election ballot, which will raise the cost of debt-service to over six percent of General Fund revenues. Though these set asides and new projects may be worthwhile investments, without including new funding streams, other important programs are squeezed.

As a result of these factors, limiting growth in state spending to population increases and inflation creates a situation in which those interests which lack legislative clout and/or the resources to put an initiative on the ballot to protect or advance their interests bear the brunt of the budget cuts in bad fiscal years. Political power follows the path of least resistance, and there will be added pressure to cut programs and services to those with the least political power and who depend most on government services, especially during economic downturns.

It is in this context that we present the Legislative Voting Record for the 2007-08 session. Readers should keep in mind

that a legislative voting record does not tell the whole story of their legislator's performance as most bills die in committee and never make it to the floor. Still, we think this snapshot is useful for FCL supporters to gauge where their legislators, the Legislature as a whole, and the governor stand with regard to FCL's positions.

Below are descriptions of some of the bills FCL has been tracking and the current status of the bill. Bills signed into law by the governor are designated as "Chaptered." ©

– Jim Lindburg <JimL@fclca.org>

**AB 43** (Mark Leno, D., San Francisco) provides that marriage is a personal relationship arising out of a civil contract between two persons and makes conforming changes to state law. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**AB 508** (Sandre Swanson, D., Oakland) eliminates the food stamp eligibility exclusion for persons convicted a of a drug felony. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**AB 537** (Sandre Swanson, D., Oakland) expands eligibility for family leave by allowing a parent to care for an adult child suffering from a serious illness, expanding the definition of a parent to include a parent-in-law and allows employees to care for a seriously ill grandparent, sibling, grandchild or domestic partner. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**AB 583** (Loni Hancock, D., Berkeley) creates voluntary public financing for the Secretary of State's office in 2014 and 2018. FCL SUPPORTS. Governor's desk.

**AB 641** (Albert Torrico, D. Fremont) reduces up-front costs of affordable housing developments by requiring local governments to provide fee deferrals until the developer has received a certificate of occupancy. FCL SUPPORTS. Chaptered.

**AB 658** (Karen Bass, D., Los Angeles) awards grants to community-based organizations for the development and implementation of evidence-based approaches to homicide and violence prevention. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**AB 900** (Jose Solorio, D., Santa Ana) authorizes \$7.4 billion in lease-revenue beds for the construction of 53,000 new prison and jail beds. FCL OPPOSES. Chaptered.

**AB 1300** (Curren Price, D., Inglewood) adds the provision of comprehensive education to the purpose of incarceration for young people under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice and requires the department to design services that promote family ties. FCL SUPPORTS. Chaptered.

**AB 1379** (Julia Brownley, D., Santa Monica) requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify alternative criteria for high school seniors unable to pass the exit examination to demonstrate competence and receive a diploma. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**AB 1471** (Mike Fuer, D., West Hollywood) expands the definition of unsafe handguns to include semi-automatic pistols not equipped with microstamping technology. FCL SUPPORTS. Chaptered.

**AB 1887** (Jim Beall, D., San Jose) requires health insurers to provide coverage for treatment of mental illness, including chemical dependency. FCL SUPPORTS. Governor's desk.

**AB 2069** (Dave Jones, D., Sacramento) requires local governments to demonstrate that they have enough land to meet their affordable housing requirements when allowing commercial developments on double-zoned sites. FCL SUPPORTS. Governor's desk.

**AB 2994** (Sally Lieber, D., Mountain View) creates a process to allow parents and students to opt out from having students' contact information provided to military recruiters. FCL SUPPORTS. Governor's desk.

**AB X1 1** (Fabian Nuñez, D., Los Angeles) requires employers to offer health insurance to employees and dependents or pay fees to enroll them into a state health insurance pool and requires individuals to show proof of coverage. FCL OPPOSES. Held in Senate Health Committee.

**SB 40** (Gloria Romero, D., Los Angeles) gives judges the sole discretion to sentence defendants to the lower, middle or upper term. FCL OPPOSES. Chaptered.

**SB 511** (Elaine Alquist, D., Santa Clara) requires electronic recording of police interrogations for suspects accused of a homicide or violent felony. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**SB 756** (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D., Los Angeles) requires law enforcement to adopt procedures to minimize mistaken eyewitness identifications. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**SB 840** (Sheila Kuehl, D., Santa Monica) creates the California Universal Healthcare System to provide affordable and comprehensive health care benefits to all California residents. FCL SUPPORTS. Governor's Desk.

**SB 851** (Darrel Steinberg, D., Sacramento) authorizes the creation of mental health courts and requires them to develop procedures for assessing a defendant's mental health to

determine amenability for participation in treatment. FCL SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**SB 1322** (Alan Lowenthal, D., Long Beach) creates a religious exemption to the loyalty oath requirement for public employees provided the employee is willing to uphold the U.S. and California Constitutions and removes unconstitutional language from the Government Code prohibiting membership in the Communist Party. FCL SUPPORTS. Governor's desk.

**SB 1589** (Gloria Romero, D., Los Angeles) provides that a court may not convict a defendant or find a special circumstance or an aggravating circumstance on the basis of uncorroborated testimony from an in-custody informant. FCL SUPPORTS. Governor's desk.

**SJR 19** (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D., Los Angeles) requests licensing boards to notify health professionals of national and international law regarding torture and requests that the Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency remove all military health professionals licensed in California from prisoner and detainee interrogations. FCL SUPPORTS. Chaptered.



*Senator Sheila Kuehl addresses universal health care advocates at a Capitol rally urging Governor Schwarzenegger to sign SB 840.*

*Photo by Chuck Walker. Used with permission.*

Thanks to the following meetings for their recent contributions:

*Apple Seed Friends Meeting  
Napa Friends Meeting  
Mendocino Friends Meeting  
Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting  
Inland Valley Friends Meeting*

**Giving Online:** For your convenience, donations to FCL may be made online. Please complete our **secure online donation form** located on our website, [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org). You can mail your donation to 717 K Street, Suite 500B, Sacramento, CA 95814-3408.

| <b>ASSEMBLY VOTES</b>    | <b>AB 43</b> | <b>AB 508</b> | <b>AB 537</b> | <b>AB 583</b> | <b>AB 641</b> | <b>AB 658</b> | <b>AB 900</b> | <b>AB 1300</b> | <b>AB 1379</b> | <b>AB 1471</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Adams, Anthony (R)       | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Aghazarian, Greg (R)     | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Anderson, Joel (R)       | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | -             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Arambula, Juan (D)       | -            | n             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Bass, Karen (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | -             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Beall, Jim Jr. (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Benoit, John J. (R)      | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Berg, Patty (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Berryhill, Tom (R)       | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Blakeslee, Sam (R)       | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Brownley, Julia (D)      | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Caballero, Anna M. (D)   | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Calderon, Charles M. (D) | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | -             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Carter, Wilmer Amina (D) | n            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Cook, Paul (R)           | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Coto, Joe (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | -             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Davis, Mike (D)          | -            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| De La Torre, Hector (D)  | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| De Leon, Kevin (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| DeSaulnier, Mark (D)     | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| DeVore, Chuck (R)        | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | -             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Duvall, Michael D. (R)   | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Dymally, Mervyn M. (D)   | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Emmerson, Bill (R)       | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Eng, Mike (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Evans, Noreen (D)        | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Feuer, Mike (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Fuentes, Felipe (D)      | Y            | -             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Fuller, Gene (R)         | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Furutani, Warren T. (D)  | x            | x             | x             | Y             | x             | x             | x             | x              | x              | x              |
| Gaines, Ted (R)          | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Galgiani, Cathleen (D)   | -            | -             | Y             | n             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | n              |
| Garcia, Bonnie (R)       | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | -             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Garrick, Martin (R)      | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Hancock, Loni (D)        | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Hayashi, Mary (D)        | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Hernandez, Edward P. (D) | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Horton, Shirley (R)      | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Houston, Guy S. (R)      | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | -             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Huff, Bob (R)            | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Huffman, Jared (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |

**Legend:**y = voted yes; **against** FCL positionn = voted no; **against** FCL position

- = absent or not voting

Y = voted yes; **for** FCL positionN = voted no; **for** FCL position

x = did not hold office at time of the floor vote

| AB 1887 | AB 2069 | AB 2994 | AB X1 1 | SB 40 | SB 511 | SB 756 | SB 840 | SB 851 | SB 1322 | SB 1589 | SJR 19 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | n       | y       | y     | n      | Y      | Y      | Y      | -       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | -      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | N     | Y      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | -      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| x       | Y       | Y       | x       | x     | x      | x      | Y      | x      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| -       | Y       | Y       | y       | -     | n      | n      | -      | Y      | -       | n       | Y      |
| n       | -       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | N     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | -       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | -       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 5)

| <b>ASSEMBLY VOTES</b>      | <b>AB 43</b> | <b>AB 508</b> | <b>AB 537</b> | <b>AB 583</b> | <b>AB 641</b> | <b>AB 658</b> | <b>AB 900</b> | <b>AB 1300</b> | <b>AB 1379</b> | <b>AB 1471</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Jeffries, Kevin (R)        | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Jones, Dave (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | -              | Y              |
| Karnette, Betty (D)        | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Keene, Rick (R)            | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Krekorian, Paul (D)        | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| La Malfa, Doug (R)         | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Laird, John (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Leno, Mark (D)             | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Levine, Lloyd E. (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Lieber, Sally J. (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Lieu, Ted W. (D)           | Y            | n             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Ma, Fiona (D)              | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Maze, Bill (R)             | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Mendoza, Tony (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Mullin, Gene (D)           | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Nakanishi, Alan (R)        | n            | n             | n             | n             | -             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Nava, Pedro (D)            | Y            | -             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Niello, Roger (R)          | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Núñez, Fabian (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Parra, Nicole (D)          | n            | Y             | Y             | n             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | n              |
| Plescica, George A. (R)    | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Portantino, Anthony J. (D) | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Price, Curren D. Jr. (D)   | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Laura Richardson (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | x             | x             | x             | y             | -              | x              | x              |
| Runner, Sharon (R)         | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | -             | y             | Y              | -              | n              |
| Ruskin, Ira (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Salas, Mary (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Saldaña, Lori (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Silva, Jim (R)             | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | Y              | n              |
| Smyth, Cameron (R)         | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | -              | n              | n              |
| Solorio, Jose(D)           | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Soto, Nell (D)             | -            | -             | -             | -             | Y             | Y             | -             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Spitzer, Todd (R)          | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | -              |
| Strickland, Audra (D)      | n            | n             | n             | n             | -             | -             | N             | -              | -              | -              |
| Swanson, Sandre R. (D)     | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Torrico, Alberto (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Tran, Van (R)              | n            | n             | n             | n             | Y             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Villines, Michael N. (R)   | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Walters, Mimi (R)          | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Wolk, Lois (D)             | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |

**Legend:**y = voted yes; **against** FCL positionn = voted no; **against** FCL position

- = absent or not voting

Y = voted yes; **for** FCL positionN = voted no; **for** FCL position

x = did not hold office at time of the floor vote

| AB 1887 | AB 2069 | AB 2994 | AB X1 1 | SB 40 | SB 511 | SB 756 | SB 840 | SB 851 | SB 1322 | SB 1589 | SJR 19 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | N     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | -       | Y       | y       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | n      | -       | n       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | N     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | -     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | -      | -      | Y      | Y      | Y       | n       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | n       | y       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | -       | n       | -      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| x       | x       | x       | x       | y     | x      | x      | x      | x      | x       | x       | x      |
| n       | -       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | -      | Y      | -       | -       | -      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | -      | n      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | -     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| -       | -       | -       | -       | -     | Y      | n      | -      | Y      | -       | -       | -      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | -      | -      | n      | -      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | N     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | n       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | -       | Y       | Y      |

| <b>SENATE VOTES</b>        | <b>AB 43</b> | <b>AB 508</b> | <b>AB 537</b> | <b>AB 583</b> | <b>AB 641</b> | <b>AB 658</b> | <b>AB 900</b> | <b>AB 1300</b> | <b>AB 1379</b> | <b>AB 1471</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aanestad, Sam (R)          | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | N             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Ackerman, Dick (R)         | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Alquist, Elaine (D)        | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Ashburn, Roy (R)           | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | Y             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Battin, James (R)          | -            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | -             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Calderon, Ron (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | n             | Y             | -             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Cedillo, Gilbert (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | -             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Cogdill, David (R)         | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | N             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Corbett, Ellen (D)         | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Correa, Lou (D)            | -            | n             | Y             | -             | Y             | Y             | N             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Cox, Dave (R)              | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Denham, Jeff (R)           | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | N             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Ducheny, Denise M. (D)     | Y            | Y             | Y             | n             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | n              |
| Dutton, Robert (R)         | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Florez, Dean (D)           | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | -             | N             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Harman, Tom (R)            | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Hollingsworth, Dennis (R)  | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Kehoe, Christine (D)       | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Kuehl, Sheila (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | N             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Lowenthal, Alan S. (D)     | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Machado, Michael (D)       | -            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Maldonado, Abel (R)        | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | Y             | -             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Margett, Bob (R)           | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| McClintock, Tom (R)        | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | N             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Migden, Carole (D)         | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | N             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Negrete McLoed, Gloria (D) | Y            | Y             | Y             | n             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | -              |
| Oropeza, Jenny (D)         | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | N             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Padilla, Alex (D)          | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Perata, Don (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Ridley-Thomas, Mark (D)    | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Romero, Gloria (D)         | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | N             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Runner, George C. (R)      | n            | -             | n             | n             | n             | -             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Scott, Jack (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Simitian, S. Joseph (D)    | Y            | -             | Y             | Y             | -             | -             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Steinberg, Darrell (D)     | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | -             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Torlakson, Tom (D)         | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |
| Vincent, Edward (D)        | Y            | -             | -             | Y             | -             | -             | y             | -              | Y              | -              |
| Wiggins, Patricia (D)      | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | -              | Y              |
| Wyland, Mark (R)           | n            | n             | n             | n             | n             | n             | y             | Y              | n              | n              |
| Yee, Leland (D)            | Y            | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | Y             | y             | Y              | Y              | Y              |

**Legend:**y = voted yes; **against** FCL positionn = voted no; **against** FCL position

- = absent or not voting

Y = voted yes; **for** FCL positionN = voted no; **for** FCL position

x = did not hold office at time of the floor vote

| AB 1887 | AB 2069 | AB 2994 | SB 40 | SB 511 | SB 756 | SB 840 | SB 851 | SB 1322 | SB 1589 | SJR 19 |
|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | Y      | n      | n      | n       | Y       | n      |
| n       | n       | -       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | -       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| -       | n       | n       | y     | n      | Y      | n      | n      | -       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | -     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| -       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | n       | y     | n      | n      | -      | Y      | n       | n       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | -      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | -       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | -      |
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | -      |
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | -      | Y      | Y       | Y       | -      |
| n       | n       | n       | -     | n      | n      | n      | Y      | n       | n       | n      |
| -       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | n      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| n       | n       | n       | N     | Y      | Y      | n      | n      | n       | Y       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | N     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | -      |
| Y       | Y       | n       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| -       | Y       | -       | -     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | Y       | -      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | -     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |
| n       | n       | n       | y     | n      | n      | -      | n      | n       | n       | n      |
| Y       | Y       | Y       | y     | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y      | Y       | Y       | Y      |

# The Visit

By Vanessa Nelson

It's early on a Saturday morning, any Saturday morning, and we're standing in a long line of people outside one of California's 31 appallingly overcrowded men's prisons. It doesn't matter which one, for visiting they are all much alike. We are here to visit a prisoner.

The early start is necessary for many reasons; the prison may be remotely located and it takes hours to arrive, or there may be far more visitors than room to visit. We join a long line of cars waiting to be allowed on prison grounds, before joining a long line of visitors, waiting for a number.

We wait unsheltered, despite weather conditions that can range from snow and biting wind to searing heat and sun. Some prisons offer a miniscule shelter, usually accommodating no more than a dozen or so, if everyone huddles together. The rest of us wait in whatever the elements serve us that day.

When visiting processing starts, we present ourselves for inspection, to make sure we aren't smuggling contraband: drugs, cell phones, money, food, anything. Guards inspect our clear plastic pouches, containing everything we're allowed to take in: dollar bills and quarters to buy food from the vending machines, photo ID, a car key, an unopened travel pack of tissues and up to 10 photos. Nothing more: no purses, wallets, books, or magazines.

Our clothing is inspected for suitability; certain colors are not allowed and although the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has a list of banned colors, individual prisons often add their own "disallowed" colors or items. We see lots of black clothing—it's usually a safe color. Jeans are forbidden: prisoners wear jeans, and guards say they might not be able to tell visitors from prisoners, despite prisoners being always handcuffed and sometimes shackled when walking to and from their cells to the visiting room. Often small children, sometimes as young as three-years-old, are refused admittance to visiting because they are wearing toddler-sized blue jeans. There are, however, no toddler-sized prisoners.

Women are forbidden to wear underwire bras, lest they somehow surreptitiously remove those small wires and pass them to prisoners. This ban is enforced even when visits are non-contact, phone conversations through glass, though how the transfer could then be accomplished, no one speculates.

After passing through the metal detector we finally reach the visiting rooms, where we wait at tables barely two feet high for guards to bring "our" prisoner. How long we wait depends – on how many guards are available to escort prisoners to visiting, on how soon the call is made to the cell blocks to bring the prisoner, on how quickly the guards choose to respond.

Perhaps today we'll see a "daddy moment," when a small child sees his prisoner-father come through the visiting room door. The child flies across the room to leap into the arms of his chino-clad daddy, and for that one moment all that matters is the father-child connection.

Hopefully, we won't witness a heart-rending "first visit," when a family sees their loved one in prison for the first time. The last one was a quiet Hmong family, the waif-like mother timidly following her husband, who followed their 10-year-old son, the only one of the three who spoke English.

When the mother saw her older son, her prisoner-son, she broke into a keening wail. Wrapping her arms around his stocky, tattooed body she rubbed his newly-shaved head. Tears streaming down her cheeks spill onto her blouse, leaving shiny, wet trails from eyes to waist.

He hugged her, and whispering in their native language, entreated her not to cry. She didn't understand his concern – on the inside, tears are a sign of weakness and even her tears can taint him. In here, he'll need all the façade of bravado and toughness he can muster.

The rest of us, too, silently will her to stop, fearful the guards might deem her distress a disturbance that could disrupt visiting for all of us. But even more, we want her to stop before we cry too, for she is the undeniable manifestation of what we feel every time we're here.

Finally our prisoner comes in and we try to pack all the love and support we can into the few hours we have. Amid the clamor of other reunions we try to catch up on family matters, news and hope.

No one is ever fully at ease during visiting: eyes never stop, always estimating how full the visiting room is becoming, for if the room is too full our visit can be cut short to make room for others waiting to get in. Will

*Continued* →

# The Numbers Game

According to statistics recently released by the CDCR, California's prison population decreased in the 12 month period from September 2007 to September 2008.

In a monthly population report the CDCR listed the state's incarcerated population at the beginning of Sept. as 166,218, a decrease of 6,454 from the same time period last year. So where have these former California inmates gone? Released in the population? On parole? Escaped?

A few individuals fall into each of the above categories, including 255 listed as escaped. Interestingly, however, the number of California prisoners now housed in other states makes up about two-thirds of the numerical decrease. At present, some 4,931 men (and all out-of-state prisoners are men) are being held in other states, often in private, for-profit prisons.

Even with the export of nearly 5000 prisoners, California prisons remain desperately overcrowded, with every institution housing at least 135% of design capacity. Avenal prison is the most over crowded, at 235% of capacity, while California Men's Facility Medical Unit, an institution designed to care for ill prisoners, is bursting with 135% of the number of patients it was designed to care for.

Most prisoners are Hispanic, most between 25 and 42 years of age, with an average age of 37. Nearly 20% of those in prison have been convicted of a drug related offense, everything from simple possession to manufacture of a controlled substance. The county with the largest percentage of commitments is, not surprisingly, Los Angeles, the state's most populated county.

Over 22,000 of those now imprisoned are "lifers", with an additional 3,700 serving life without the possibility of parole.

The end result of all the recent prisoner shuffling, exporting inmates to other states and lip service paid to the cause of prison reform, is that as of the beginning of September the California prison system still imprisons nearly twice as many men and women as it was designed to hold.☺

– Vanessa Nelson

the circulating guards pull someone, prisoner or visitor, out for a search? Will the vendors fill the snack machines? Family contact aside, the next best part of visiting for the prisoners is food from the machines.

Visitors operate the vending machines, as the prisoners are not allowed to handle money or allowed close enough to the machines to push the buttons. The food is overpriced junk: frozen hamburgers the size of a baseball, and about as tasty, are \$3.50. But we buy all we can, as it's a treat for the prisoners to fill up on sweets, cold milk, chips and soda.

The vending machines are owned by private vendors, who set their own prices and collect significant profits on visiting days. The vendors hate lockdowns and visiting shut-downs almost as much as families, for that hurts their business.

Prisoners are allowed restroom breaks only at intervals set by the guards. Visitors must wait for a guard to let them in and out for restroom breaks. Bathrooms are usually as clean as a back-country truck stop, often with no toilet paper or soap, never any paper towels. If a woman finds herself in need of feminine products, she

must ask a guard – usually a male guard.

Everyone eyes the clock as it ticks away toward the end of visiting. Sometimes that end comes 10, 20 maybe even 30 minutes before the posted time. The guards often want extra time to "process" the prisoners back into their cells.

Too soon a guard barks "time is up." If we can afford another night in a motel, another day off work, perhaps we'll be back tomorrow, Sunday, for another visit. Or it may be several weeks, months, sometimes a year or more before we can again stand in that long, tense Saturday morning line. ☺

– Vanessa Nelson <vanessa@fclca.org>

*Vanessa Nelson is the newest member of the FCL staff. A member of the Statewide Family Council, Vanessa has been a regular volunteer at the FCL office. Maintaining family connections with prisoners has been demonstrated to reduce recidivism. FCL collaborates with the Statewide Family Council to promote family-friendly policies at California's prisons.*


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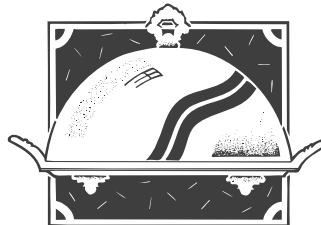
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*FCL's voting recommendations regarding propositions on the upcoming November ballot will be presented in our next newsletter, published in early October.*

**!!!!  
SAVE THE  
DATE  
!!!!**



**FCL Bay Area Dinner**

with **Don Specter**, Prison Law Office and  
**Lenny Goldberg**, California Tax Reform Association

October 18th at the Hillside Club in Berkeley

For more information please contact the FCL office  
at 916.443.3734, or email, <[dale@fclca.org](mailto:dale@fclca.org)>

The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCL) includes Friends and like-minded persons, a majority of whom are appointed by Monthly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in California.



Expressions of views in this newsletter are guided by Statements of Policy prepared and approved by the FCL Committees. Seeking to follow the leadings of the Spirit, the FCL speaks for itself and for like-minded Friends. No organization can speak officially for the Religious Society of Friends.



While we strive above all for correctness and probity, we are quick to recognize that to err is human. We therefore solicit and welcome comments and corrections from our readers.