



The Capitol Connection

News, Legislation and Policy
Impacting California Broadcasters

Election Deja vu

Just when California voters thought that election politics was over — think again. As a result of recent and soon-to-be-announced officeholder vacancies, voters in selected regions of the state may have yet another opportunity to cast votes.

Here's a quick summary of the 2021 special election landscape:

SPECIAL ELECTION SET:

Primary - March 2nd

General – May 4th

SD 30

A special election has been called for March 2 to fill the seat that became vacant after Senator Holly Mitchell was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. SD 30 encompasses most of Downtown and South Los Angeles, as well as neighboring communities of Inglewood and the Westside.

For more information: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/2021-sd30>

SPECIAL ELECTION NOT YET ANNOUNCED:

AD 79

Assemblywoman Shirley Weber has been appointed by Governor Newsom as California's next Secretary of State. She replaces Alex Padilla who was appointed to serve in the US Senate. AD 79 encompasses southeastern San Diego and its closest eastern suburbs. The ethnically and socio-economically diverse district is a mix of urban and suburban areas.

POTENTIAL SPECIAL ELECTIONS:

AD 49

Assemblyman Ed Chau is being considered for a judicial appointment to the Los Angeles Superior Court. This East Los Angeles district encompasses Monterey Park, Rosemead, San

Marino, and Arcadia, is a safely Democratic district with one of the highest concentrations of Asian-Americans in California.

AD 18

Assemblyman Rob Bonta is rumored to be appointed as California's next Attorney General. He would replace Xavier Becerra who has been nominated by President-Elect Biden as the next Secretary of Health and Human Services. AD 18 covers the SF/East Bay region including Alameda, San Leandro and much of Oakland.

Newsom Recall

Last week, recall proponents announced they had reached 1,000,000 signatures collected, putting them halfway to their stated goal of 2,000,000 signatures by the March 17th deadline. Proponents need 1,495,709 valid signatures for the recall to qualify.

A recent influx of campaign cash has increased the chances of the proponents obtaining the necessary signatures and increased the likelihood they may purchase advertising. If qualified, a recall will most likely see a significant number of candidates running to replace Governor Newsom. In the last recall (2003), 135 candidates appeared on the ballot.