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Xavier Becerra Hosts Meet-and-Greet with Black Leaders in L.A.

By Joe W. Bowers Jr.
California Black Media

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra met with Black elected officials and faith, labor, civic and community leaders in South Los Angeles on Oct. 15, outlining his priorities for working families, education, housing and health care. He also pledged to defend diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs against federal opposition and the state homelessness funding to results.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell



California gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra speaks with Black media journalists during a roundtable discussion in Los Angeles on Oct. 15, 2026. CBM photo by Maxim Elramsisy.

introduced Becerra, citing his service in the state Assembly, Congress, as California attorney general and as U.S. secretary of health and human services. She said his record of challenging the Trump administration would be important as California confronts federal policy changes.

"We need people who have walked where we have walked and understand the communities that we all live in, come from, and represent," Mitchell said.

Becerra defended DEI programs as essential to

expanding opportunity. Recalling his upbringing as the son of working-class immigrants who never attended college, he said too many Californians work hard but remain overlooked.

"A lot of folks don't see them because they're working so hard; they're keeping their heads down. But we see them, and that's why we make this fight," he said.

Becerra also opposed voter identification requirements, arguing that they create barriers to voting.

"If there's a fight for that diversity, that strength, that inclusion, that equity, count me in, and let me use the governor's office to make it clear," he said.

Asked about his first priorities as governor, Becerra identified housing and health care.

He said more than 40,000 housing units are ready for construction but remain stalled by financing shortages.

Becerra pointed to Proposition 1, a housing bond measure on the November ballot, as a



Former state Sen. Steven Bradford, California gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra and California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond gather during a reception with African American community leaders in Los Angeles on Oct. 15, 2026. CBM photo by Maxim Elramsisy.



Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass greets California gubernatorial candidate and former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra during a reception with Black community leaders in Los Angeles on Oct. 15, 2026. CBM photo by Maxim Elramsisy.

potential source of financing.

"Prop 1 would give us the money to help start getting those moving," he said. "And the more you build, the more you relieve the pressure, the demand for housing, which means you can probably see the price stabilize as well."

On homelessness, Becerra warned that cities and counties should not expect continued state funding without measurable progress.

"We will demand accountability when it comes to homelessness," he said. "I'm not willing to let \$1 from the state, from taxpayers, go to a city or a county unless they can show me how they're going to use the dollar and what the results will be."

He called for temporary shelter paired with mental health and substance use treatment, while acknowledging that local governments control decisions about encampments and public streets.

Becerra also emphasized preventing homelessness before families lose their housing because of layoffs or medical emergencies.

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Sacramento:

Golden State Legislative Reunion Brings Together Lawmakers and Officials Who Served Between 1964 and 1995

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Decades of political history, legislative battles and bipartisan relationships came to life in Sacramento on Oct. 9 as some of California's most influential former lawmakers gathered for the Golden State Legislative Reunion.

In addition to former and current legislators, the event, held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in the state capital, also brought together former governors, constitutional officers and other political figures.

Hosted by former Republican legislative leader Jim Brulte and former Democratic Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, the reunion honored lawmakers elected to the California Senate and Assembly between 1964 and 1995.

Brown, who served in the Assembly from 1964 to 1995 and held the speakership for nearly 15 years, described the reunion as a "unique occasion" to recognize particular contributions of lawmakers from both parties.

"We want to think seriously about the achievement of this body, members of the Assembly, some who went on to join the Senate, and some who went off to other places," Brown said. "We do want to thank the sponsors for making it possible for all of us to enjoy and renew relationships."

A towering figure in California politics, Brown rose to become the Democratic whip in 1969 and later chaired influential committees, including Ways and Means and Revenue and Taxation. He became the first Black American Californian to serve as Assembly speaker in December 1980 and remains the longest-serving speaker in California history.

Known for his political savvy and sharp wit, Brown drew laughter as he reflected on his record-setting tenure and the term limits that ultimately reshaped the Legislature.

"For the ones who became speaker after me, I'd still be the speaker if it wasn't changed to term limits," Brown said.



Former legislature from left to right, Antonio Villaraigosa, Maxine Waters, and Willie Brown were all smiles at the Golden State Legislative Reunion at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento on Oct. 9. Villaraigosa was the Speaker of the California State Assembly from 1998 to 2000, Waters served in the California State Assembly for 14 years (from 1977 to 1991), and Brown was the Speaker of the California State Assembly from 1980 to 1995. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey



Former California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown greets Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee and other former colleagues at the Golden State Legislative Reunion at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. The event drew more than 500 guests, including former lawmakers and officials who served in the California State Capitol. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

Among those joining Brown were former Assembly speakers Antonio Villaraigosa and Bob Hertzberg, along with former members of the Capitol press corps and lobbyists who had spent years covering, negotiating and navigating legislative business.

Brulte, who represented portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties during his 14 years in the Legislature from 1990 to 2004, brought his own political history to the celebration. He served as a Republican leader in both the Assembly and Senate, becoming the first freshman legislator to lead a party caucus in the Assembly.

In a lighthearted nod to legislative tradition, Brulte took the podium and struck the gavel to call the dinner to order, a moment he joked had been more than three decades in the making.

"The house will be in order," Brulte said before addressing Brown. "Willie, it only took me 31 years to do that."

Organizers described the reunion as the largest gathering of former California lawmakers in nearly 50 years, drawing nearly 80 former legislators and approximately 500 guests. Beyond the nostalgia, the event celebrated a period when political adversaries often maintained personal relationships despite sharp disagreements over legislation and public policy.

Among the prominent attendees was U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-CA-43), who represented California's 48th Assembly District from 1977 to 1991 before beginning her congressional career.

Waters said the opportunity to reconnect with former colleagues was particularly meaningful, but her longstanding friendship with Brown made attending the reunion an easy decision.

"All you have to say is 'Willie Brown,' and I'm here. He's like my brother," Waters told California Black Media (CBM). "I admire him so much. He's so brilliant. Of course, we worked together in order to get him his first speakership."

The reunion drew a cross-section of California's political establishment, including former Republican Gov. Pete Wilson and former Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, whose careers spanned some of the state's most consequential political and policy debates.

Also attending was Xavier Becerra, a former U.S. secretary of health and human services, California attorney general and congressman who began his legislative career in the Assembly in 1990. Becerra is now a candidate for California governor.

Other notable guests included former Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, who also served in both houses of the Legislature; former Republican Assemblymember Jim Cunneen; U.S. Rep. Jim Costa, a former state legislator; and former Democratic lawmakers Jackie Speier and Grace Napolitano, both of whom later served in Congress.

Former U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, now mayor of Oakland, also attended, adding to the gathering's roster of political figures whose careers extended from the state Capitol to local and national leadership.

Brown, Lee and Waters share another distinction: All three served as members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), which has played a significant role in advancing legislation and public policy addressing civil rights, economic opportunity and the interests of Black Californians.

After leaving the Legislature, Brown served as San Francisco mayor from 1996 to 2004. Lee went on to represent the East Bay in Congress for more than two decades before becoming Oakland's mayor in 2025.

For many attendees, the reunion was more than a chance to revisit political accomplishments. It was an opportunity to renew friendships, remember hard-fought legislative battles and reflect on the personal experiences that defined their years in Sacramento.

Waters said seeing former colleagues brought back memories of both the challenges and triumphs they experienced together.

"I am so excited and thrilled to see some of my old colleagues and what they are doing," Waters said of the event. "I'm remembering the days, all of the good times, bad times, and how we survived."



Former Republican Senator Jim Brulte and former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown co-hosted the Golden State Legislative Reunion that brought back lawmakers who served between 1964 and 1995. Shown left to right is the Brultes' daughter, Ivy Vital Brulte, Jim Brulte, Willie Brown, and Jim's wife, Dr. Kirsten Vital Brown. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

Six Flags Closes Several Rides After Man Dies On Goliath Rollercoaster

The accident occurred on Monday, after a man was ejected from his seat while riding Goliath at Six Flags Over Georgia, injuring several passengers.

What was supposed to be a fun-filled day at an amusement park turned tragic after a man died while riding a roller coaster at Six Flags Over Georgia.

According to The New York Times, 42-year-old Hassan Jihad Ibn Kariem was ejected from his seat while riding the Goliath attraction. Kariem apparently hit the coaster three times as he fell, hitting other passengers, before landing on a haunted house attraction below. Kariem was on the ride with his son, with his wife and daughter watching from below.

According to the Six Flags website, the roller coaster reaches speeds of 70 miles per hour and a height of 200 feet. In addition to Kariem's death, four other passengers were injured. The extent and severity of their injuries are still unknown.

Cobb County Police Department said that Kariem was found "unresponsive and not breathing" when they arrived at Six Flags just after 4 p.m. on Monday. The accident caused the ride to stop on an incline, and rescue crews were brought in to evacuate passengers who were stuck on the ride.

Witnesses on the roller coaster described the experience to 11 Alive. "We were having a great time to just screaming 'Oh my God, what is happening?'" a woman told the outlet.

"He was in our pictures," another witness told 11 Alive. "He fell and hit the car three different times." He said the man's body hit others on the ride before falling onto the roof of a haunted house attraction below.

Representatives for Six Flags acknowledged the incident and said park officials and local authorities responded immediately, but declined to detail what led to the accident, citing privacy concerns for Kariem's family.

"We are deeply saddened by the guest incident at our park today. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with the guest's family, friends, and loved ones. We are also providing support to the guests and team members affected," a Six Flags representative said in a statement.

Six Flags announced it closed Goliath at the Over Georgia location and has temporarily closed several rides at other locations out of "an abundance of caution."

The closures include Raging Bull at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Ill., Goliath at Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif., Nitro at Six Flags Great Escape in Jackson Township, N.J., Leviathan and Behemoth at Canada's Wonderland in Vaughan, Ontario, Fury 325 and Thunder Striker at Carowinds in Charlotte, N.C., and Orion and Diamondback at Kings Island in Kings Island, Ohio.

Sadly, this is only the latest in a series of safety concerns for the amusement park chain. Three people who rode X2 at Six Flags Magic Mountain have filed a lawsuit against Six Flags. The suit claims the company did not properly disclose to riders the safety risk that comes with the ride, and they have suffered severe brain damage as a result. The ride has been closed since July because of the lawsuit.

Missed the Voter Registration Deadline? Californians Still Have Options

BAKERSFIELD — The deadline for regular voter registration has passed, but Kern County residents who have not registered still have an opportunity to participate in California's Nov. 3 general election.

The state's regular registration deadline was Monday, Oct. 19. However, California allows eligible residents to register and vote after that date through a process known as conditional voter registration, also called same-day voter registration.

From Oct. 20 through Election Day, eligible voters can complete conditional registration and cast a provisional ballot at their county elections office or participating in-person voting location.

Election officials verify the voter's eligibility and registration information before the provisional ballot is counted.

Make a plan before Election Day
Residents who are already registered are encouraged to check their registration status, review their ballot and decide how they plan to vote.

California began mailing vote-by-mail ballots to registered voters earlier this month. Completed ballots may be returned by mail, deposited in an official ballot drop box or delivered to an authorized voting location.

Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Nov. 3 and received by the county elections office no later than Nov. 10 to be counted. Ballots delivered in person must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Voters who need assistance finding a voting location, checking their registration or understanding their ballot options can contact the Kern County Elections Division.

The office is located at 1115 Truxtun Ave. in Bakersfield and can be reached at 661-868-3590. Election information is available at kernvote.com. Voters also can check their registration status through voterstatus.sos.ca.gov or obtain statewide assistance at 800-345-VOTE (8683).

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

World & Nation

Cash for Moms: As Medicaid Cuts Loom, Cities Test a New Approach to Black Maternal Health

By Jennifer Porter Gore,
WordInBlack Black Press USA Wire

By now, there's little question that a maternal health crisis is rocking the Black community. The data tells the story: Black moms are dying during childbirth at three times the rate of white moms, a disproportionately high percentage of Black children are born prematurely, and Black infants are about twice as likely to die as white infants in states like Louisiana.

But new data from a handful of pilot projects also suggests a potential solution that could significantly improve outcomes for Black mothers and their babies: cash payments, no strings attached.

Studies show the unrestricted money led to fewer preterm births, higher newborn birth weights, and fewer critical-care infant hospitalizations. It also reduced stress among new moms who would otherwise struggle to attend prenatal check-ups, pay for food and formula, or keep a roof over their heads.

"This makes so much sense to me," says Tamara Mason, an official with the nonprofit March of Dimes who worked on an Atlanta project distributing money to low-income pregnant women. "Why isn't everyone doing this?"

Sen. Cory Booker, a New Jersey Democrat, is among several sponsors of legislation that would provide direct financial aid to new mothers, similar to the expanded child tax credit in 2021. The credit sent monthly payments of up to \$300 per child straight to most families' bank accounts; experts credit it with lifting millions of children out of poverty.

When it expired, child poverty rose again.

"I believe that we need to, for moms, flood resources to them through things like the child tax credit," Booker said during an August press briefing on the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. "We were able to cut child poverty virtually in half for our communities, and that actually does affect child outcomes."

Those positive outcomes in part spurred the March of Dimes to launch trial programs providing universal basic income, or UBI, to pregnant women and new moms in two cities: Atlanta, which Bloomberg ranked as the most economically unequal large city in the country, and New Orleans, which March of Dimes gave an F grade.

No strings attached.

In Atlanta, the Guaranteed Basic Income Program gave each participant \$1,000 a month during pregnancy and her baby's first year. Women most likely to live in poverty in that city are Black women of reproductive age; 25 pregnant women in two of the area's highest-need ZIP codes received the cash.

March of Dimes ran the pilot through an Atlanta collective-impact partnership known as the collaborative. It is modeled on San Francisco's

Abundant Birth Project and, organizers say, rooted in an idea the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. championed decades ago.

Funders Skeptical at First – Then All In
Mason said she spent months pitching foundations on the idea, which some considered outside her organization's lane.

"I was honestly surprised that a couple of foundations," Mason says. "Funders were like, 'Why is March of Dimes in this space? You all are the birth defects people. You're the preterm birth people.'"

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta signed on as the primary funder. The Liz Blake Giving Fund and the Jesse Parker Williams Foundation funded data gathering and evaluation Emory University conducted.

The nonprofit Center for Black Women's Wellness handled recruitment, and more than 110 women applied for the 25 spots, Mason said. Applicants had to live in one of the two ZIP codes, earn no more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and be 12 to 28 weeks pregnant.

Cash, Diapers and a Network

Stipends were paid through a prepaid card, letting evaluators track spending without restricting it. Helping Mamas, a nonprofit focused on diaper insecurity, supplied 300 diapers and eight packs of wipes a month, plus a car seat and other essentials. The Georgia Black Doula Network encouraged, but didn't require, participants to hire doulas.

Early results from Emory's evaluation, as described by Mason, show a 20 percent decrease in financial stress and a 66 percent decrease in hopelessness, a figure she called striking. Prenatal outcomes trended better than average.

Mason was careful not to oversell what \$1,000 a month can fix. Several participants lost housing; one or two dealt with domestic violence.

Even though GBI reduced financial stress, "it still is one piece of the puzzle," Mason said.

New Orleans: Overcoming Crisis

March of Dimes runs a similar program in New Orleans, GBI Rx, offering pregnant patients in their first or second trimester \$12,000, as a lump sum or \$1,000 a month. Two partner medical clinics enroll patients for healthcare, and the payment card blocks cash withdrawals and spending on liquor and gambling.

In Louisiana, "we have a maternal and infant health crisis – specifically, a Black maternal and infant health crisis," said Robin Gruenfeld, director of collective impact for March of Dimes in New Orleans. "And it's been that way for a long time."

Black infants there died at about twice the rate of white infants from 2021 to 2023. Gruenfeld said Orleans Parish has the state's lowest prenatal care utilization rate.

Gruenfeld said the program's city seed money, federal pandemic relief funds, and foundation



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

funding were "zeroed out" without notice. Most funds were later restored at a lower level, forcing organizers to scale down to 94 participants instead of the 100 planned. They also enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Recipients spent lump sums on housing, cars and insurance. But spending priorities for the participants changed when the federal government stopped paying out SNAP food benefits during last fall's federal shutdown.

"During that time, more than a quarter of the funds that we gave folks was going to groceries," Gruenfeld said.

Several New Orleans city government officials are now weighing a program modeled on Michigan's Rx Kids, which a study credits with nearly halving neonatal deaths in Flint, one of the poorest cities in the state.

"We are seeing policies pushed by the political will of predominantly Black women come into effect, and then also the backlash," says Danielle Atkinson of Mothering Justice Action Fund, a nonprofit advocacy organization. "In Michigan, we have Rx Kids, which is extremely popular [and] the data on the impact is undeniable."

But recent changes are endangering the success of such programs, particularly amid President Donald Trump's hostility towards programs focused on diversity, equity and inclusion.

"We're getting this pushback around identifying race and parental status as systemic areas of oppression," Atkinson says. It remains to be seen,

she says, "whether or not we are going to be able to prevail with the political power and the popular will of these issues, or the rhetoric and the history of racism in our country."

Washington Looks Elsewhere

That includes the Republican-controlled Congress, which has shown little appetite for cash aid tied to pregnancy.

The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, which Booker reintroduced along with Democratic Reps. Lauren Underwood of Illinois and Alma Adams of North Carolina, bundles 14 bills on housing, nutrition, WIC and the perinatal workforce, but not direct cash.

Still, signs suggest the issue – providing cash aid to low-income mothers and their babies – may stay on the front burner as the midterm elections approach in November.

This month, former Vice President Kamala Harris and Michigan Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed, both Democrats, hosted a Black maternal health roundtable in Detroit. Danielle Atkinson of Mothering Justice took part.

"Black mamas deserve access to quality healthcare that sees us, listens to us, and understands us at every step of the way," Atkinson said afterward. "The responsibilities we carry do not end at pregnancy, nor do they disappear when we give birth and want to spend time with our newborn. They stay with us throughout all that we experience."

Based on reporting by Louisiana Weekly.

Beyond the Job Search: DC Black MBA Invests in Helping Black Women Reclaim Their Next Chapter

By DC Black MBA
Black Press USA Wire

For Black women across the Washington metropolitan region, the changing employment

landscape is about more than a paycheck. It can mean reassessing a career, redefining success and deciding what comes next.

The numbers underscore the challenge. Revised employment data show that approximately 251,000 Black women lost jobs between January and August 2025, accounting for more than half of the employment losses among women during that period, despite Black women representing just 14.1% of the female workforce. By the end of 2025, there were 113,000 fewer Black women employed than at the beginning of the year.

The impact has been particularly significant in the DMV, where federal employment has long provided economic stability and career opportunities for Black professionals. Maryland alone lost approximately 25,000 federal jobs in 2025, according to state employment data.

For DC Black MBA, those realities call for support that extends beyond helping women find their next job.

"I am focused on doing more and providing as many opportunities as possible for Black women to invest in themselves both professionally and personally," said Dr. Carletta S. Hurt, president of the DC Black MBA. "We know that when Black women proceed and prosper, everyone benefits."

That commitment is behind Leading with Intention by Investing in Self, a three-part, in-person workshop series hosted by DC Black MBA in partnership with Blu Topaz Inc. Educational Consulting.

The series builds on the chapter's August Women's Symposium, MastHERpiece: Designing a Life with Intention, which challenged women to see themselves as architects of their careers, wealth, wellness and impact. The new workshops take that conversation a step further, asking women to



Geraldine P. White

consider where they can work next and who they want to become next.

The series opens Oct. 22 with "Recalibrating Your Compass," led by Geraldine P. White, Founder and CEO of Identity & Impact. White will guide participants through questions of identity, direction and purpose.

"You can be proud of what you've built and ready for something different. Both can be true," White said. "Investing in yourself includes giving yourself permission to revisit an earlier definition of success and consider what you want your next chapter to make possible."

Tonya Camille

On Oct. 29, Tonya Camille, creator of Me in the Making and Unstuck & Inspired, will lead "Successful, But Stuck: How High-Achieving Professionals Reconnect, Realign & Move Forward."

Her interactive workshop will help women identify fears, limiting beliefs and recurring patterns that may prevent them from moving forward, while developing a concrete next step. "You can't change what you won't acknowledge, and you



Tonya Camille

can't transform what you're unwilling to confront," Camille said.

The series concludes Nov. 5 with nonprofit



Tokiwa T. Smith

leader, author and consultant Tokiwa T. Smith leading "Rest is Revolutionary." Her session challenges a familiar expectation placed upon Black women: that achievement and service to others must come at the expense of themselves.

Tokiwa T. Smith

Smith said Black women must recognize that prioritizing themselves, setting boundaries and making room for joy are not signs of diminished ambition. "I believe we thrive when we engage in self-care and community care," Smith said.

For Hurt, the goal is to create space for Black women to move beyond reacting to an uncertain economy and begin intentionally determining what comes next.

A job loss can require a new résumé. A changing workplace may demand new skills. However, a life transition can also become an invitation to reconsider purpose, boundaries, entrepreneurship, leadership, rest and the meaning of success itself.

For more information, visit the DC Black MBA website (www.dclackmbaa.org/).

Xavier Becerra Hosts Meet-and-Greet with Black Leaders in L.A.

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"It costs way more money to pull you off the streets, to get you standing up, to get you sober, than it does to keep you in a home you're already in," he said.

Becerra warned that federal Medicaid reductions could threaten health coverage for millions of Californians while destabilizing hospitals, clinics and medical practices.

"If these families lose their insurance and still go in for care, now the doctors and the hospitals won't get paid," he said, warning that providers could eventually close or reduce services. "I want to make sure neither the patients nor the providers feel like Trump's cuts are going to undermine our health care system."

He said he has begun discussions with health care providers and insurers about a response but did not outline a financing plan.

Questions about technology prompted Becerra to address surveillance, artificial intelligence and privacy protections.

Asked about license plate recognition cameras potentially being used to track people by race, immigration status or protest activity, he called for safeguards and consequences for misuse.

"Once you give up your privacy, you can't get it back," he said.

On artificial intelligence (AI), Becerra expressed concern that even developers cannot fully predict how their systems will behave.

"It's hard to believe that you have safety when even the people who produce the technology can't tell you where it's going to go," he said.

He called for protections for children, workers and public safety, including exploring government authority to shut down dangerous AI systems.

Becerra also criticized federal immigration enforcement policies and called for comprehensive reform, recalling his unsuccessful efforts to overhaul the system during his 24 years in Congress.

"We've known that our system for immigration has been broken for a long time," he said.

He said uncertainty affects immigrant families and employers, particularly farmers who depend on immigrant labor.

On education, Becerra emphasized early childhood learning, stronger academic standards and experienced teachers in struggling schools.

"Keep your taxpayer dollars in our public community schools," he said. "Don't let those tax

dollars go to for-profit private schools first, because it's already tough enough as it is."

He argued that achievement gaps must be addressed before kindergarten, with expanded early learning opportunities and intensive tutoring for students who fall behind.

"Too many of our kids are starting even kindergarten, and they're not ready to learn," he said. "And is it surprising that by the third grade they're not reading or doing math at grade level?"

Becerra also challenged schools to stop advancing students who lack grade-level skills.

"We have to start to tell our schools, you're not going to be allowed to just pass a kid on just because they're a year older," he said.

He called for assigning experienced teachers to schools with the greatest academic needs while working with unions on compensation for additional work.

"You can't flood them with the least experienced teachers," he said. "You have to put skilled, ready teachers who can provide the training that a child who may be starting a little behind will need."

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Inside 820 S. Michigan: New Book Captures the Lost World of Ebony and Jet

By RTM Newsroom
Source: Black Press USA Wire

A new photography book is giving readers a rare look inside one of the most important buildings in Black media history.

820 Ebony/Jet: Visions of the Johnson Publishing Company, an American Icon, published Tuesday by MW Editions, features photographs by Chicago photographer Barbara Karant documenting the former Johnson Publishing Company headquarters at 820 S. Michigan Ave., the longtime home of Ebony and Jet magazines. Pasted markdown

The 240-page book preserves the building's striking interiors, many of which no longer exist in their original form, while also examining the larger cultural legacy of Johnson Publishing Company and its influence on Black media, design, photography and American culture.

Designed by architect John W. Moutoussamy and completed in 1972, the building was the first, and remains the only, high-rise in downtown Chicago designed by an African American architect. Built for publisher John H. Johnson, the headquarters became a physical expression of the ambition and influence of one of the nation's most important Black-owned media companies.

While the building's exterior reflected Moutoussamy's restrained modernist style, the inside told a very different story.

Designers Arthur Elrod and William Raiser filled the headquarters with bold colors, geometric patterns, mirrored surfaces, rich textures and dramatic materials across 11 floors. The result was a workplace that looked unlike the traditional corporate offices of its era. Pasted markdown

Karant began photographing the building after Johnson Publishing sold the property in 2010 and relocated in 2012. Between 2013 and 2015, and again in 2018, she documented the largely vacant interiors after employees and much of the furniture had been removed.

What remained were the colors, patterns and architectural details that had helped define the company's visual identity.

Her photographs capture spaces ranging from

the cafeteria's orange, purple and gold designs to Eunice Johnson's cream-and-honey office, mirrored dressing rooms and the executive floor's expansive views of Lake Michigan and Grant Park. Pasted markdown

Among the building's most memorable spaces was the famed Ebony Test Kitchen.

Known for its vivid colors, psychedelic patterns and distinctive cabinetry, the kitchen became a visual reflection of Ebony magazine's influence on food, lifestyle and Black culture. Karant photographed the kitchen as part of the larger architectural story of the headquarters. Pasted markdown

"The building was almost like a portrait of Johnson Publishing Company itself," Karant said. "Even after the people and furnishings were gone, the colors, patterns, textures and spaces still conveyed the creativity, confidence and extraordinary cultural presence of the company."

The photographs have taken on even greater significance because much of what Karant documented has since disappeared.

Following the building's conversion, substantial portions of the original interiors were removed. The Ebony Test Kitchen was dismantled and preserved separately, making Karant's images one of the most extensive visual records of how the headquarters looked during Johnson Publishing Company's decades on Michigan Avenue. Pasted markdown

The book also includes photographs of sculptor Richard Hunt's Expansive Construction, a work commissioned for the building's lobby, as well as images of the company's in-house photography studio and archival views of the original interiors.

But 820 Ebony/Jet goes beyond architecture.

The book includes a foreword by photography historian Deborah Willis, six scholarly essays and personal reflections from former Johnson Publishing Company employees. Together, the contributions explore the company's role in Black visual representation, media, photography, art and design, while offering firsthand accounts of what it was like to work inside the building. Pasted markdown

For generations, Ebony and Jet helped shape how Black America saw itself and how the country



saw Black America.

The magazines documented everything from politics and the civil rights movement to fashion, entertainment, family life and culture. Johnson Publishing Company also became an influential force in photography, beauty, design and popular culture.

That legacy extended well beyond the pages of its magazines.

The new book examines Johnson Publishing Company's continuing influence on artists including Theaster Gates, Hank Willis Thomas, Kwame Brathwaite, Lorna Simpson, Martine Syms and David Hartt. Pasted markdown

For Chicago, the book serves as both an architectural record and a cultural archive. It preserves a place where Black entrepreneurship, media, art and design converged at a scale rarely seen before or since.

820 Ebony/Jet: Visions of the Johnson

Publishing Company, an American Icon is available now from MW Editions. The hardcover volume includes 150 photographs and is priced at \$65. Pasted markdown

Karant is also scheduled to present the book during Modernism Week at the Palm Springs Art Museum on Feb. 15, 2027, where she will discuss the connection between the Johnson Publishing Company headquarters and the design legacy of Arthur Elrod and William Raiser.

The post Inside 820 S. Michigan: New Book Captures the Lost World of Ebony and Jet appeared first on Chicago Defender.

Based on reporting by Chicago Defender.

Originally published by Black Press USA Wire — <https://chicagodefender.com/new-book-documents-the-lost-interiors-of-the-iconic-johnson-publishing-headquarters/>

14 Black-owned Media Companies That are Taking Over Entertainment One Film (or TV Series) at a Time

Spike Lee, Issa Rae, Viola Davis, and 50 Cent are among the names behind Black-owned media companies bringing some of our favorite stories to life.

BY Malcolm Trapp

We don't have to explain why our stories should be told by our people, especially when there's no shortage of incredible Black filmmakers, directors, and writers already doing the work. Behind just about every one of them is a media company — be it focused on production, distribution, development, or otherwise — helping bring those stories to life.

There are absolute legends like Spike Lee and Monty Ross, whose 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks helped bring us Malcolm X and Do the Right Thing. You also have modern-day pioneers like Issa Rae, who delivered the dearly missed "Insecure" through Hoorae, as well as Ryan Coogler, the powerhouse behind Sinners, Creed III, and a plethora of other Proximity Media-produced films. While we're at it, even former President Barack Obama and NBA greats like LeBron James have joined the party.

Without further ado, scroll through 14 Black-owned media companies shaping the entertainment industry one film or television series at a time (in no particular order).

1. Issa Rae's Hoorae

Issa Rae is really that girl. Her media



production company, Hoorae, has developed and produced projects such as "Rap Sh!t," "One of Them Days, and perhaps most importantly, "Insecure." Of course, the company also houses her music and podcast platform Raedio, as well as ColorCreative, which has worked with the likes of Sanaa Lathan and our very own Lynae Vanee.

2. Jordan Peele's Monkeypaw Productions

Jordan Peele attends Monkeypaw Productions' No Drama Initiative hosted by TIFF and The Universal Filmmakers Project during the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival at TIFF Lightbox on September 06, 2025 in Toronto, Ontario.

3. Tyler Perry's Tyler Perry Studios

Tyler Perry's name carries more weight than anything we could ever say about his trailblazing career, which we can only assume is why he named his production company Tyler Perry Studios. In addition to owning one of the largest production facilities in the country after purchasing a 330-acre property in Atlanta in 2015, the media mogul's eponymous studio is



responsible for Why Did I Get Married?, Daddy's Little Girls, and basically anything involving Madea or the filmmaker himself.

4. Spike Lee and Monty Ross' 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks

If there was one major Black-owned media company that walked so others could run, it's 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks. Technically the oldest of the bunch we mention on this list, 40 Acres was founded by Spike Lee and Monty Ross in 1979 before helping bring films like 1989's Do the Right Thing, 1992's Malcolm X, and 2025's Highest 2 Lowest to the big screen.

5. Ryan and Zinzi Coogler's Proximity Media

Ryan Coogler's Proximity, which he co-founded with his wife, Zinzi Coogler, and Sev Ohanian, has worked on several projects that went on to earn millions, if not billions, at the box office. Following the enormous success of 2018's Black Panther, the company has had a hand in Sinners, Creed III, Judas and the Black Messiah, and Space Jam: A New Legacy.



6. Ava DuVernay's ARRAY

What do 13th, Selma, The White Tiger, and shows like "Naomi" and "When They See Us" all have in common? Ava DuVernay's ARRAY ecosystem has had a hand in every one, whether through the legendary filmmaker directing them or the company distributing them on streaming giants like Netflix.

7. Barack and Michelle Obama's Higher Ground

The Obamas launching their own media company definitely might not have been on many people's bingo cards, though it's not all that shocking considering Barack's years in public office and Michelle's later success with "The Michelle Obama Podcast" and "IMO." Its catalog includes the Colman Domingo-starring Rustin among a plethora of other films, in addition to several podcasts.

8. Kenya Barris' Khalabo Ink Society

Kenya Barris, who became vice chair of our very own REVOLT Labs in 2026, has built quite the résumé through Khalabo Ink Society. The company has "black-ish," You People, and Girls Trip all under its belt. If that isn't iconic, we don't know what is!

9. LeBron James and Maverick Carter's The SpringHill Company

Yes, LeBron James may have spent most of his career balancing one of the greatest runs in NBA history, fatherhood, and stakes in a few other sports teams, but SpringHill Company may just be one of his most exciting ventures off the court. Co-founded with Maverick Carter, the company has largely produced sports documentaries and films like What's My Name: Muhammad Ali and Black Ice. We'd be remiss not to mention that his barbershop conversation series "The Shop" also sits under that legendary banner. In 2024, SpringHill merged with British company Fulwell 73 to become Fulwell Entertainment, placing Carter as co-CEO with London-based producer Leo Pearlman. So, although the executive helm has changed a bit, we honor its roots as a



Black-owned company!

10. Charles D. King's MACRO

MACRO's contributions to Black entertainment include the Denzel Washington-led Roman J. Israel, Esq., Nas-directed docuseries "Supreme Team," Michael B. Jordan's Just Mercy, plus many more. While several of the aforementioned companies have operated under major platform deals, leaving them less freedom to shop projects elsewhere, MACRO has placed films and TV series on Apple TV+, Tubi, Roku, Showtime, Netflix, and HBO.

11. Kevin Hart's Hartbeat

While just about every Kevin Hart film from the late 2010s has Hartbeat involved somewhere in the process — which is definitely no small number if you've seen his résumé — the media company has also empowered plenty of Black women comedy writers. Through its partnership with the Sundance Institute, the Women Write Now initiative has helped bring short films like Hey Boo and Black Karen to life. The studio has also produced BET's "Couch Critics," "Cold as Balls," and "Hart 2 Hart," along with the action-comedy series "Die Hart."

12. Viola Davis and Julius Tennon's JuVee Productions

When it comes to film, Viola Davis and Julius Tennon's JuVee Productions has box-office hits like The Woman King, Troop Zero, and G20 under its belt. Outside of those, though, we might argue that "The First Lady" is one of its more memorable works, thanks in no small part to the EGOT winner's portrayal of Michelle Obama. We can't wait to see what comes out of the studio next.

13. Shonda Rhimes' Shondaland

What more is there to say about Shonda Rhimes' Shondaland when the ubiquitous "Grey's Anatomy" and "Bridgerton" are among the many shows it has produced? Fans of "How to Get Away with Murder" and "The Catch" can thank the company for those ABC favorites too.

14. 50 Cent's G-Unit Films and Television Inc.

There's no such thing as downtime for 50 Cent. After already blessing us with album after album of hits, he expanded into television through G-Unit Film and Television Inc., which has helped bring us the beloved "Power" franchise, "The Oath," and "BMF." You simply can't outwork him!



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Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CLB00420
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Brian Chuong Nghiem, an individual; and Does 1 through 20, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO): EL DEMANDANTE: AltaOne Federal Credit Union
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you

respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/

selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services

from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado.

Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un

formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes del California, (www.sucorte.cagov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Kern County Superior Court 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, California 93301 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Thomas J. Prenovost, Jr. (SBN 77813) Prenovost, Normandin, Dawe & Rocha, 2122 North Broadway, Suite 200, Santa Ana, California 92706 Tel. (714) 547-2444 DATE (Fecha): February 23, 2026 Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario) (SEAL) By: Sadie Cazares, Deputy (Adjunto) **NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:** You are served. **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

Summons - BCV-25-100923
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMAN DO):
SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CURTIS DEAN FITTS, an individual; CAROLEE KIT FITTS, an individual; SOLARCITY CORPORATION, a corporation; SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, a government agency; TESLA, INC., a Delaware Corporation; THE ESTATE OF CURTIS DEAN FITTS; THE TESTATE AND INTESTATE SUCCESSORS OF CURTIS DEAN FITTS; THE ESTATE OF CAROLEE KIT FITTS; THE TESTATE AND INTESTATE SUCCESSORS OF CAROLEE KIT FITTS and DOES 6 through 25, inclusive, **YOU ARE BEING SUED BY: BANKUNITED, N.A.,** **NOTICE!** You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the Information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The Court has a statutory 11fe for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **AVISO!** Lohan demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, 10 corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la Información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDAR IO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen . Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que 11aya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte Y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la

formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión de abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes del California, (www.sucorte.cagov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Kern County Superior Court 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301 CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso) : BCV-25-100923 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is : (El nombre, la dirección y el numero de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Name Brian S. Thomley #275132 Street Address: Malcolm Cisneros, A Law Corporation,4 Venture, Suite 395, Irvine, CA 2618 Telephone Number: (949) 252-9400 Email Address: bthomley@mclaw.org **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB03685
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301 Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building PETITION OF: LUCIA OROZCO FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: LUCIA OROZCO Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name LORENZO MATEO HERNANDEZ Proposed name MATEO HERNANDEZ THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING** **Date: November 17, 2026** **Time: 8:30 AM** **Dept: L** **Room:** The address of the court is: same as noted above A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER Date: September 18, 2026 Cynthia L. Loo, Judicial Officer By: Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk **Petitioner:** Lucia Orozco 5005 Oswell Park Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307 661-809-9027 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB03520
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN 1215 TRUXTON AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301 KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT - CIVIL DIVISION PETITION OF: KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ Proposed name KAYLEEN MARIE BELLE JACKSON THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING** **Date: November 24, 2026** **Time: 8:30 am**

PUBLIC NOTICE

County of Kern, State of California

NOTICE TO SUBCONTRACTORS, MATERIAL SUPPLIERS AND WORKERS

CONTRACT NO. CD#23.21.2, 23.23.2, 23.24.1

The Buttonwillow County Water District is actively soliciting bids from prospective subcontractors or materials suppliers whose businesses qualify as a small business under the criteria in 13 CFR part 75 and/or qualify as Section 3 Business Concerns, as well as individuals who qualify as Section 3 Workers in connection with the Community Development Buttonwillow County Water District Improvements, Buttonwillow County Water District Well Site #2 Improvements, & Buttonwillow County Water District Water Site Improvements (Phase II) project to be located in the County of Kern and funded by the HUD.

A Section 3 Business Concern is a business:

- (1)

The business is at least 51% owned and controlled by low- or very low-income persons;
- (2)

The business is at least 51% owned and controlled by residents who currently live in public housing or Section 8-assisted housing; or
- (3)

Over 75% of the labor hours performed for the business over the prior three-month period were performed by Section 3 workers.

A Section 3 Worker is:

- (1)

Is a low- or very low-income worker that fell below HUD income limits for the previous or annualized calendar year. Low- and very-low-household income limits may be obtained from: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il.html>; or
- (2)

The worker employed by a Section 3 business concern. (see Section 3 Business Concern)
- (2)

The worker is a YouthBuild participant. (YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school.)

A Targeted Section 3 Worker is:

- (1)

A worker employed by a Section 3 business concern (defined below), or
- (2)

Currently fits or when hired fit at least one of the following categories, as documented within the past five years:

a.

Living within the service area or the neighborhood of the project (defined below).

b.

A YouthBuild participant. (YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school.)

Qualified individuals and firms may obtain a list of plan-holding general contractors at Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, 1518 Mill Rock Way, Bakersfield, CA 93311 until 10:00 a.m. on November 24, 2026. General Contractors should be contacted directly for possible use in their bid proposals on this project.

The Buttonwillow County Water District and prospective General Contractors are seeking such subcontractors in compliance with the procurement standards found at 24 CFR 85.36(e) and Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, which provide that Small Businesses (SBs) and Section 3 Business Concerns/ Residents be given the maximum practical opportunity to participate in HUD funded contracts.

Hiring is anticipated for the following trades:

- General construction labor
- Underground pipeline installation
- Electrical work
- Pump and mechanical equipment installation
- Welding and metal fabrication
- Concrete construction
- Crane and rigging services
- Equipment operators and truck drivers

Subcontracts may be let for the following categories of work on this project:

- Underground pipeline installation
- Electrical work and controls
- Pump and mechanical equipment installation
- Concrete construction
- Steel fabrication, welding, and pressure vessel construction
- Crane and rigging services
- Excavation and site work
- Trucking and hauling

Dept: L
Room: The address of the court is: same as noted above A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER Date: September 22, 2026 Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer By: Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk **Petitioner:** KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ 12519 VALENTANO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312 (928) 350-0605 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5223
Doing business as: ZANI'S at 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313 Mailing address: 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **HS211313 INC** at 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Corporation SIGNED: SUKHMAN GREWAL, **President** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/25/2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime This statement expires on: 08/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5701
FILE NO: 2026-B5702
FILE NO: 2026-B5703
Doing business as: FROST MEDIA / FROSTSPORTSMEDIA / FROSTMEDIA SERVICES at 16041 SCREAMING EAGLE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY Mailing address: 16041 SCREAMING EAGLE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **TYLER JOSEPH FROST** at 16041 SCREAMING EAGLE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314 The business is conducted by: Individual SIGNED: **TYLER JOSEPH FROST** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/14/2025 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/17/2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M SALES, Deputy This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime This statement expires on: 09/17/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5395
Doing business as: **M AND M SERVICES** at 723 BUTTE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305, KERN COUNTY Mailing address: 515 TEAKWOOD DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **MICHAEL GARCIA** at 723 BUTTE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305 The business is conducted by: Individual SIGNED: **MICHAEL GARCIA** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/02/2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: J PADILLA, Deputy This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5631
Doing business as:

BAKERSFIELD BEAUTY CO. at 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
MARY EVANGELINE SWANLUND at 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

BREANNA ASHLEY REIMER at 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: General Partnership
SIGNED: **Mary Swanlund**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/15/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/15/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5756
Doing business as:

SPROUTS AND BASILS PHO RESTAURANT at 428 HIGH ST SUITE H, DELANO, CA 93215, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 327 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA 93215
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
ROXANNE PATTON CLAVERIA at 327 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA 93215
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ROXANNE PATTON CLAVERIA**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/21/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/21/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5209
FILE NO: 2026-B5210
FILE NO: 2026-B5211
FILE NO: 2026-B5212
FILE NO: 2026-B5213
FILE NO: 2026-B5214
Doing business as:

Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County
Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Mark A. Smith, Secretary**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. Hernandez, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/24/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5767
Doing business as:

J1 SMOG CHECK at 730 E CALIFORNIA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 27510 PINE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ST. TAFT, CA 93268
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
YURIANA CORTES RUIZ at 27510 PINE ST, TAFT, CA 93268

The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **YURIANA CORTES RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/21/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/21/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5845
FILE NO: 2026-B5846
FILE NO: 2026-B5847
FILE NO: 2026-B5848
FILE NO: 2026-B5849
Doing business as:

THE ARK MINISTRY / WARSHIP WORKOUT / THE ARK / ARK MINISTRY / THE ARK MINISTRY REVIVAL CENTER at 10315 POLO GLEN DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN
Mailing address: 10315 POLO GLEN DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
LAURA KATESMITH at 10315 POLO GLEN DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **LAURA KATE SMITH**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/24/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF FRANK CERVANTES MANZO, JR. AKA FRANK C. MANZO
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ01108

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **FRANK CERVANTES MANZO, JR. AKA FRANK C. MANZO.**
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Melissa Manzo in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern. 2100 College Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93305
Juvenile Justice Center
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Melissa Manzo be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)
The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: November 12, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept.: J-1
Address of court: same as noted above
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court

within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Gerald H. Oldfield, Esq.
McAtee & Oldfield Law Offices
1810 Westwind Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: 661-324-6060

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25CLB01438
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Ashley Jean Cottrell, an individual; Keith John Cottrell, an individual; and DOES 1 to 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO): Lendmark Financial Services, LLC, a limited liability company
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de emisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Kern 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Lawrence J. Dreyfuss
The Dreyfuss Firm, P.L.C.
25108 Marguerite Pkwy., Suite A212, Mission Viejo, CA 92692
Tel. (949) 727-0977
DATE (Fecha): 7/24/2025
TARA LEAL
By Nina Moralez, Deputy (Adjunto)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026

telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): THE DUNNING LAW FIRM APC
James MacLeod (249145)
Christina C. MacLeod (283945)
California DFPI Debt Collector License #10059-99
9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123
Tel. (858) 974-7600
DATE (Fecha): December 16, 2025
Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario) (SEAL)
By: Yoselyn Ramirez, Deputy (Adjunto)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): BCL-25-017277
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Yasmin Paglinawan and Does 1 through 20, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO): EL DEMANDANTE: Newrex LLC
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de emisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Kern County Superior Court 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Lawrence J. Dreyfuss
The Dreyfuss Firm, P.L.C.
25108 Marguerite Pkwy., Suite A212, Mission Viejo, CA 92692
Tel. (949) 727-0977
DATE (Fecha): 7/24/2025
TARA LEAL
By Nina Moralez, Deputy (Adjunto)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

SWEET TREE FARMS at 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
CROP DROP, INC. at 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5903
Doing business as:

LA HACIENDA GRILL, INC. at 9910 ROSEDALE HWY SUITE H, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: 10907 CILANTRO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
LA HACIENDA GRILL, INC. at 9910 ROSEDALE HWY SUITE H, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **BRUCE ESCALANTE, PRESIDENT**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/10/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5880
Doing business as:

BAKERSFIELD TOOL REPAIR, INC. at 215 SUMNER ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: PO BOX 71207, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
BAKERSFIELD TOOL REPAIR, INC. at 215 SUMNER ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Wendy Higgins, Secretary**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2011

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5732
Doing business as:

BELOVED LINKS at 5003 VIA SIENNA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5003 VIA SIENNA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
EMMA BREANNA ROJAS at 5003 VIA SIENNA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **EMMA BREANNA ROJAS**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/12/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/18/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5932
Doing business as:

SWEET TREE FARMS at 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
CROP DROP, INC. at 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by:

Corporation
SIGNED: **Ann Marie Florendo, CFO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/01/2005
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5885
FILE NO: 2026-B5886
Doing business as:

SEEDS / BURNING BUSH HOMES at 4217 NEWCOMBE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 4217 NEWCOMBE AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
SOCIAL EQUITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS, INC at 4217 NEWCOMBE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Kevin Bush, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/29/2025

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5905
Doing business as:

OSTEOSTRONG BAKERSFIELD at 4000 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY STE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing Address: 4000 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY STE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
DEEP RESERVES, INC. at 4000 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY STE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: MO
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Harjit K. Deol, Secretary**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2019

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5979
Doing business as:

BEAUTY BAR BY MARCY at 8301 BRIMHALL RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5516 SAN MATEO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
MARCELINA LOPEZ GARCIA at 5516 SAN MATEO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARCELINA LOPEZ GARCIA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/30/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the

Legal Notices

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County Clerk
D HINOJOSA
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2022-B7335
Business Name you wish to abandon:

FILTHY CLEAN at 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing Address: 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
GREG TUNNEY EDWARDS at 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
SIGNED: **GREG TUNNEY EDWARDS, Owner**

The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 11/02/2022
Original File No: 2022-B7335
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
H MENDOZA
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-B0616
Business Name you wish to abandon:

BRUNDAGE LIQUOR at 401 BRUNDAGE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing Address: 5619 WARREN RIDGE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
LIQUOR MERCHANT INC at 5619 WARREN RIDGE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
SIGNED: **CHARANJIT SINGH, PRESIDENT**

The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 01/26/2024
Original File No: 2024-B0616

This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
M HERNANDEZ
Deputy

I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6001
FILE NO: 2026-B6002
FILE NO: 2026-B6003
Doing business as:

Burlington / Burlington Coat Factory / Burlington Stores at 6203 Gosford Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313, Kern County
Mailing address: 1830 Route 130 North, Attn: Legal Department, Burlington, NJ 08016
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc. at 1830 Route 130 North, Burlington, NJ 08016
State of incorp. or org.: Florida
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Christopher Schaub, Vice President**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/02/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/01/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J. Padilla, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/01/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6046
Doing business as:

DJKT at 6203 Gosford Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313, Kern County
Mailing address: 1830 Route 130 North, Attn: Legal Department, Burlington, NJ 08016
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc. at 1830 Route 130 North, Burlington, NJ 08016
State of incorp. or org.: Florida
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Christopher Schaub, Vice President**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/02/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J. Padilla, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A

new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5787
Doing business as:

ZOEY'S MINI MART at 3600 CHESTER AVE STE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 9422 RED PINE DR, SHAFTER, CA 93263
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
ZOEY'S MINI MARKET LLC at 9422 RED PINE DR, SHAFTER, CA 93263

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Aerial Perez, Manager**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/22/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/22/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6176
Doing business as:

PICANTE FOODS LLC at 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
PICANTE FOODS LLC at 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Jasmine Pacheco, CEO**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/01/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/22/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6018
Doing business as:

THIRSTY TRICK TREATS at 5500 GINGER DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5500 GINGER DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
SARAH IRENE DZIUK at 5500 GINGER DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SARAH IRENE DZIUK**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/01/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/01/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5436
Doing business as:

GABLE & GROVE at 1901 CHESTER AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 12702 STABLEGATE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
DIANDRA LEE EVANS at 12702 STABLEGATE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DIANDRA LEE EVANS**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/03/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/03/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5787
Doing business as:

ZOEY'S MINI MART at 3600 CHESTER AVE STE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 9422 RED PINE DR, SHAFTER, CA 93263
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
ZOEY'S MINI MARKET LLC at 9422 RED PINE DR, SHAFTER, CA 93263

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Aerial Perez, Manager**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/02/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA, Deputy

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6174
Doing business as:

IRON MOOSE NETWORKS at 120 PORTALES REAL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 120 PORTALES REAL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
JIM ALLEN MASON at 120 PORTALES REAL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JIM ALLEN MASON**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/09/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/09/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6176
Doing business as:

PICANTE FOODS LLC at 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
PICANTE FOODS LLC at 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Jasmine Pacheco, CEO**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/09/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/09/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6194
Doing business as:

ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
ADVANCE MAINTENANCE INC. at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Joseph Ruiz, CFO**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/29/2021

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/12/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/12/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB04000

Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield 93301
Kern County Superior Court-Metro Justice Building
PETITION OF: **MARIA CASTRO**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: **MARIA CASTRO** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **ALEXANDER SEVERIN LARES**
Proposed name **ALEXANDER SEVERIN CASTRO-TORRES**

THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: **December 16, 2026**
Time: **8:30 am**
Dept: **L**
Room:

The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **October 13, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
By: **Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk**

Attorney for Petitioner: **Ruby Dhalwal 345846 Dhalwal Law Firm**
1810 Westwind Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93301
6615191444

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER 26CUB03957
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Bakersfield Metro Division
PETITION OF: **TRACEY ANN MUELLER**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: **TRACEY ANN MUELLER** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **TRACEY ANN MUELLER**
Proposed name **TRACEY ANN MILLER**

THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: **December 14, 2026**
Time: **8:30 am**
Dept: **L**
Room:

The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **October 13, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
By: **Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk**

Attorney for Petitioner: **Ruby Dhalwal 345846 Dhalwal Law Firm**
1810 Westwind Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93301
6615191444

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

CASE NUMBER 26CUB03957

Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Bakersfield Metro Division
PETITION OF: **TRACEY ANN MUELLER**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: **TRACEY ANN MUELLER** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **TRACEY ANN MUELLER**
Proposed name **TRACEY ANN MILLER**

THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: **December 14, 2026**
Time: **8:30 am**
Dept: **L**
Room:

The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **October 12, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
By: **Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk**

Attorney for Petitioner: **Rachele Berglund Herr Pedersen & Berglund LLP**
100 Willow Plaza, Ste. 300, Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 636-0200

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6194
Doing business as:

ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
ADVANCE MAINTENANCE INC. at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Christopher Bryan Booth, Member**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/13/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/13/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/13/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6194
Doing business as:

ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
ADVANCE MAINTENANCE INC. at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Christopher Bryan Booth, Member**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/13/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/13/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/13/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The Black Church Writes AI’s Next Chapter

By Rev. Dr. Adolphus Lacey Senior Pastor,
Bethany Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York
BlackPressUSA

For generations, the Black church has stood strong in our communities through every historical change this country has experienced. During the civil rights movement and in recent times, faith leaders have helped uplift Black sanctuaries to register voters, keep food pantries open for people in need, and sit with families in hospital rooms in their most desperate moments. When our people faced new trials, they could always look to our faith leaders and the church to lean in to help us be included in these transformative changes.

Artificial intelligence is the latest revolutionary change to impact our society, and much like other transformations before us, underserved communities often get left behind.

I was recently featured in a report entitled “Faith, Community & AI” and it found that people send ChatGPT more than 70 million messages a week about religion. Nearly 22 million involve studying sacred texts, and 16 million ask about religious practices and holy days. Our members make up part of those numbers. They bring questions of faith to these tools every day.

Pastors have noticed, and according to a September 2025 Lifeway Research survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors, 42 percent said they use or experiment with AI in ministry. I count myself among them.

I write my sermons by hand, through prayer and study. When I finish a draft, I ask ChatGPT this question: “Where might this sermon become unclear or difficult to follow for someone early in their walk

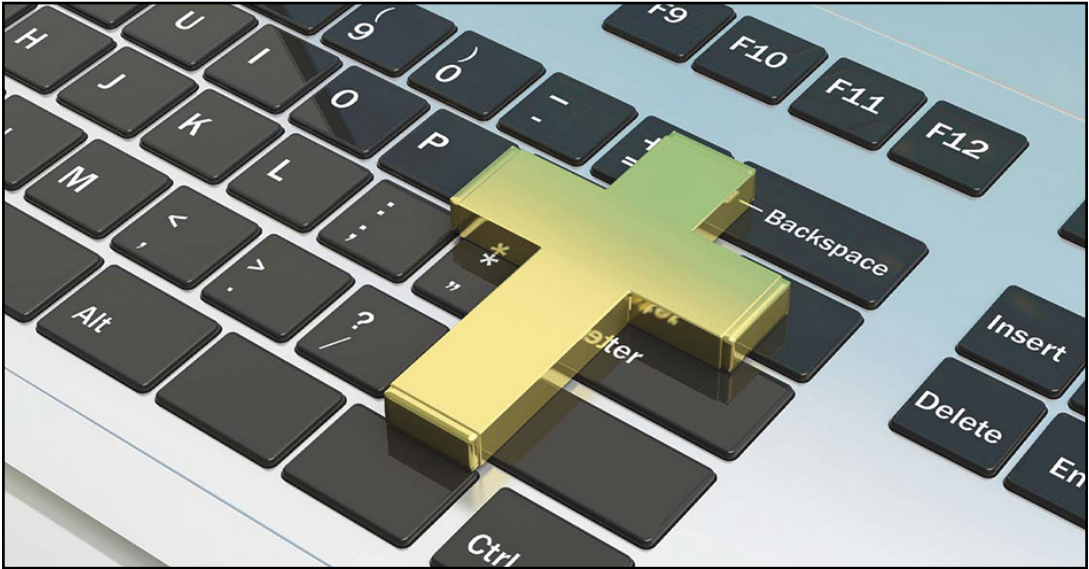


Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA

of faith?” It shows me gaps in my preparation, like where I incorrectly assumed everyone would know the context of who the Pharisees were. Then, change comes from my own pen, not the robot. The tool helps me reach the person in the back pew while the message still comes from me.

If I could have my wish, our whole community would take a similar posture. We must use these tools, understand them, and most importantly be

present to help shape them if we want to be included in the coming change.

I implore my fellow faith leaders to use these tools. Start now and use them with wisdom. We count on each and every one of you to make sure our communities help write the next chapter of this story. This rapid change is not as unfamiliar as it may sound. My first understanding of AI came from using a calculator for the first time in grade

school. We did not call it AI, but it was a tool that helped me work through mathematical equations hours more efficiently.

It starts with training; there is no involvement without understanding. Free AI trainings have begun in our churches and community centers across the nation. Every faith leader should sign up and, when possible, encourage members of your congregations to join you. By learning how to use AI, we can better understand what it can do, make up our own minds about its impact, and have a say in how it shapes our communities.”

Next, we must be at the tables where the builders of these tools make decisions. Presence is the first step toward understanding, and that gap is only bridged through a coordinated effort. How can any tool serve a community well if that community is not part of the conversation? Our traditions, needs, and concerns must be accounted for, and Black faith leaders are already making that happen. OpenAI’s recent Faith report states plainly that AI should never become an arbiter of religious truth. I fully intend to hold the company to its word, and the most effective way I can do that is from inside.

I will close with this—we must diligently protect what only the church can give. A believer in Seoul, Korea quoted in the report warned, “if you pour every struggle into a private chat, your pastor and your friends may never learn you need help.” A chatbot will not sit with a grieving family or pray with you at two in the morning. As we adopt this technology, it is up to us to ensure it keeps people connected to each other and to their church.

Rev. Dr. Adolphus Lacey is senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

Black Capitalism Re-Analyzed: June 5, 1971 - Huey Newton

By Huey P. Newton
Black Press USA Wire

“We want an end to the robbery by the CAPITALISTS of our Black community.” That was our position in October 1966 and it is still our position ... However, many people have offered the community Black capitalism as a solution to our problems. We recognize that people in the Black community have no general dislike for the concept of Black capitalism, but this is not because they are in love with capitalism. Not at all.”

The Black Panther Party, as we begin to carry out the original vision of the Party. When we coined the expression “All Power to the People,” we had in mind emphasizing the word “Power,” for we recognize that the will to power is the basic drive of man. But it is incorrect to seek power over people. We have been subjected to the dehumanizing power of exploitation and racism for hundreds of years; and the Black community has its own will to power also. What we seek, however, is not power over people, but the power to control our own destiny. For us the true definition of power is not in terms of how many people you can control. To us power is, first of all, the ability to define phenomena, and secondly the ability to make these phenomena act in a desired manner.

We see then that power has a dual character and that we cannot simply identify and define phenomena without acting, for to do so is to become an armchair philosopher. And when Bobby and I left Merritt College to organize brothers on the block, we did so because the college students were too content to sit around and analyze without acting. On the other hand, power includes action, for it is making phenomena perform in the desired manner. But action without thinking and theory is also incorrect. If the social forces at work in the community have not been correctly analyzed and defined, how can you control them in such a way that they act in a desired manner? So the Black Panther Party has always merged theory and practice in such a way as to serve the true interests of the community.

Minister of Defense of the Black Panther party, Huey P. Newton, visited a Palestinian Refugee camp in Lebanon, in 1980.

In merging theory with practice, we recognized that it was necessary to develop a theory which was valid for more than one time and place. We wanted to develop a system of thinking which was good anywhere, thus it had to be rather abstract. Yet our theory would relate to a concrete analysis of concrete conditions so that our actions would always be relevant and profitable to the people. Yet, at the same time, it had to advance their thinking so that they would move toward a transformation of their situation of exploitation and oppression. We have always insisted on good theory and good practice, but we have not always been successful in carrying this through.



Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton raises his arms above a crowd of supporters. In his 1971 essay “Black Capitalism Re-Analyzed,” Newton argues that power means the ability of people to control their own destiny.

“When the Black Panther Party defected from the Black community, we became, for a while, revolutionary cultists. One of the primary characteristics of a revolutionary cultist is that he despises everyone who has not reached his level of consciousness, or the level of consciousness that he thinks he has reached, instead of acting to bring the people to that level. In that way the revolutionary cultist becomes divided from the people; he defects from the community. Instead of serving the people as a vanguard, he becomes a hero. Heroes engage in very courageous actions sometimes, and they often make great sacrifices, including the supreme sacrifice, but they are still isolated from the people. Their courageous actions and sacrifices do not lead the people to a higher level of consciousness, nor do they produce fundamental changes in the exploitation and oppression of the people. A vanguard, however, will guide the people onto higher levels of consciousness and that way bring them to the point where they will take sterner actions in their own interests and against those who continue to oppress them. As I’ve said previously, revolution is a process, not a conclusion. A true

revolutionist will not only take courageous actions, he will also try to advance the people in such a manner that they will transform their situation. That I, by delivering power to the people the true revolutionist will help them define the social phenomena in their community and lead them to the point where they will seize the time and make these phenomena act in a desired manner.

Therefore, as revolutionaries we must recognize the difference between what the people can do and what they will do. They can do anything they desire to do, but they will only take those actions which are consistent with their level of consciousness and their understanding of the situation. When we raise their consciousness, they will understand even more fully what they in fact can do, and they will move on the situation in a courageous manner. This is merging your theory with your practices. Point 3 of the original Ten-Point Program of the Black Panther Party is “We want an end to the robbery by the CAPITALISTS of our Black Community.”

That was our position in October 1966 and it is still our position. We recognize that capitalism is no solution to the problems we face in our

communities. Capitalist exploitation is one of the basic causes of our problem. It is the goal of the Black Panther Party to negate capitalism in our communities and in the oppressed communities throughout the world.

However, many people have offered the community Black capitalism as a solution to our problems. We recognize that people in the Black community have no general dislike for the concept of Black capitalism, but this is not because they are in love with capitalism. Not at all. The idea of Black capitalism has come to mean to many people Black control of another one of the institutions in the community. We see within this characteristic the seeds of the negation of Black capitalism and all capitalism in general. What we must do then is increase the positive qualities until they dominate the negative and therefore transform the situation.

In the past the Black Panther Party took a counter revolutionary position with our blanket condemnation of Black capitalism. Our strategy should have been to analyze the positive and negative qualities of this phenomenon before making any condemnation. Even though we recognized, and correctly so, that capitalism is no solution or answer, we did not make a truly dialectical analysis of the situation. We recognized that in order to bring the people to the level of consciousness where they would seize the time, it would be necessary to serve their interests in survival by developing programs which would help them to meet their daily needs. For a long time we have had such programs not only for survival but for organizational purposes. Now we not only have a breakfast program for schoolchildren, we have clothing programs, we have health clinics which provide free medical and dental services, we have programs for prisoners and their families, and we are opening clothing and shoe factories to provide for more of the needs of the community. In a way our new position has the simplicity and completeness of a mathematical formula.

When the Black capitalist contributes to the survival programs and makes a contribution to the community, the community will give him their support and thus strengthen his business. If he does not make any contribution to the survival of the community, the people will not support him and his enterprise will wither away because of his own negligence. By supporting the community, however, he will be helping to build the political machine that will eventually negate his exploitation of the community, but also negate his being exploited and victimized by corporate capitalism.

So we will heighten the contradiction between the Black community and corporate capitalism, while at the same time reducing the contradiction between the Black capitalist and the Black community. In this way Black capitalism will be transformed from a relationship of exploitation of the community to a relationship of service to the community, which will contribute to the survival of everyone.



Minister of Defense of the Black Panther party, Huey P. Newton, visited a Palestinian Refugee camp in Lebanon, in 1980.

Political

Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed

Shutterstock

By Bo Tefu and Antonio Ray Harvey *California Black Media* **Secretary of State Shirley Weber Pushes Back Against DOJ Demands Over California Voter Rolls**

California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber criticized the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for demanding that state election officials investigate voters suspected of being noncitizens just weeks before the Nov. 3 general election.

“The U.S. DOJ’s relentless efforts to unlawfully gain access to states’ protected voter data and purge voter rolls serve only to cause chaos and fuel public distrust in our elections,” Weber said in an Oct. 14 statement.

Weber said her office received a demand to investigate an unspecified number of individuals the federal government believes are “likely noncitizens.” However, the DOJ did not provide her office with the list and gave California just 48 hours to obtain it, investigate and take action.

The demand comes as the DOJ, working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), seeks to block California from counting mail-in



CBM file photo

ballots from approximately 20,000 registered voters whose citizenship status the federal government has questioned.

“State-facilitated voter fraud is unacceptable in the United States of America,” said U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche. “If found responsible in a court of law, the State of California will have seriously undermined confidence in our electoral system and violated laws that protect our nation’s representative system of government.”

According to Weber’s office, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk received the federal government’s list on a password-protected thumb drive, with the password written on a sticky note.

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean C. Logan said his office declined to access the files because the device did not meet established security standards.

“We have not accessed the drive because doing so would conflict with established data privacy and information security protocols,” Logan said. “We do not consider the device a secure medium.”

Weber also challenged earlier federal allegations that California had 190,000 noncitizens on its voter rolls, saying the Trump administration had failed to provide evidence or explain its methodology despite requests from her office.

“California has robust state law requirements that only U.S. citizens can register to vote and that any non-eligible registrants are removed from the state’s voter rolls,” Weber said. “My office and California election officials remain committed – as always – to ensuring a fair and smooth 2026 general election.”

The DOJ’s letters to the California secretary of state and Los Angeles County election officials

outline the federal government’s demands.

“Raising a Child Shouldn’t Break the Bank”: California Is Helping Families Save on Childcare Costs

California families are paying less for subsidized childcare under new fee schedules introduced since 2019, according to information from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

The state has expanded subsidized childcare, introduced free transitional kindergarten for 4-year-olds, and increased access to before- and after-school programs as part of broader efforts to reduce the financial burden of raising children. However, childcare affordability remains a challenge for many families.

According to a PPIC chart cited by the administration, a family of three earning \$60,000 annually would have paid approximately \$7,000 a year in fees for full-time subsidized childcare under the 2019-20 schedule. Under the 2025-26 schedule, the annual fee is zero. The figures are adjusted for inflation.

“Raising a child shouldn’t break the bank,” Newsom said. He added that the state has lowered costs, expanded access to affordable care, and increased educational opportunities to help parents and children thrive.

Since 2019, California has added approximately 149,000 subsidized childcare slots and awarded 3,800 grants to providers to improve facilities and expand capacity. The state has also expanded before-and after-school care and summer programs for students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, offering activities such as homework assistance, arts, music, and science enrichment.

Universal transitional kindergarten is another major component of the state’s strategy. The free program is available to all 4-year-olds in California, providing early education while helping families avoid some childcare expenses. California enrolled 213,313 children in transitional kindergarten during the 2025-26 school year. The Newsom administration says the state has invested \$12.5 billion since 2019 to implement the program statewide.

Other initiatives include expanding paid family leave from six weeks to eight weeks and increasing wage replacement for eligible workers.

Those earning less than \$65,000 annually can receive up to 90% of their regular wages while on leave.

California has also provided free meals to public school students and established the CalKIDS savings program, which provides eligible children with accounts to help cover future college and career training expenses.

The state has further supported childcare providers through collective bargaining, committing more than \$800 million to health, retirement, and training benefits for members of Child Care Providers United.

While these initiatives have expanded support for families, the PPIC figures specifically illustrate changes in subsidized childcare fees, not the full cost of care for every household. Ensuring that affordable, accessible childcare is available to families across income levels remains an ongoing challenge for California.

Atty Gen. Bonta Sues Trump Admin, Blocking Decision to Close San Francisco National Archives

California Attorney General Rob Bonta sued the Trump administration to block the planned closure of the National Archives at in San Francisco, arguing that the move would limit access to historical records essential to families, Tribal communities, researchers and state agencies.

The lawsuit, filed Oct. 14 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, challenges the National Archives and Records Administration’s (NARA) decision to close the facility in San Bruno and distribute its records among five federal archives locations across the country.

Bonta argues that the decision violates the federal Administrative Procedure Act because the agency failed to adequately consider the

consequences for California and other affected communities.

“These records belong here with the communities whose stories they tell, and I’ll fight to keep them here,” Bonta said during a press conference announcing the lawsuit.

The San Francisco National Archives houses more than 75,000 cubic feet of federal records covering Northern and Central California, Hawaii, most of Nevada, Guam, and American Samoa. Its collections include immigration and court records, genealogical documents, Indian boarding school records, and files related to the Chinese Exclusion Act and Japanese American internment.

The archives also hold records from Fred Korematsu’s legal challenge to his arrest for refusing to report for internment during World War II. Families use the records to trace their ancestry and establish citizenship, while Tribal communities rely on them to establish membership, seek federal recognition, and defend land and treaty rights.

“The federal government should not be putting up barriers between Californians and the records they depend on,” Bonta said, criticizing the federal government for proceeding without sufficient consultation or consideration of the consequences.

NARA informed employees in June that it planned to close the San Francisco and Chicago archives within the next few years, with transfers beginning within months.

In August, the agency announced that San Francisco’s holdings would be distributed among five facilities. According to Bonta’s office, transfers could begin as soon as this week, starting with NASA records moving to Fort Worth, Texas.

The state argues that losing local access could disrupt public projects requiring historical research to comply with environmental laws.

California State Parks, for example, consulted the archives more than 10 times while refurbishing the barracks on Angel Island. Officials warn that pending projects could become impossible to complete if records are temporarily unavailable or too costly to access out of state.

University researchers also depend on physical access to archival materials that are not available online. Bonta’s office says fewer than 4% of National Archives records nationwide have been digitized, and some fragile documents cannot be digitized without risking damage.

Bonta is asking the court to overturn NARA’s closure decision and prohibit the transfer of records from the San Bruno facility. The lawsuit seeks to preserve local access to historical materials used for research, education, and public projects

Report: As the Number of California Aging Workers Rise, Black Participation Holds Steady

California’s older workforce is expected to grow significantly over the next 15 years, reshaping the state’s labor market as its population ages. A new report from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) projects that the number of workers age 65 and older will increase even as overall labor force participation among older adults remains largely unchanged.

The report, *Older Workers in California*, by Hans Johnson, Eric McGhee, Daniel Payares-Montoya, and Sarah Bohn, examines workforce trends and projects changes through 2040. The policy brief was adapted by Vicki Hsieh and supported by the James Irvine Foundation.

By 2040, about 23% of Californians will be 65 or older, up from 14% in 2020. Meanwhile, the state’s working-age population is expected to remain virtually unchanged, creating challenges for the labor market and public programs serving older residents.

In 2024, approximately 1.3 million Californians age 65 and older were in the labor force. That number is projected to reach 1.8 million by 2040.

Older workers also accounted for about 30% of California’s labor force growth between 2006 and 2024, when the number of workers in this age group increased by approximately 754,000.

The report projects that the racial and ethnic composition of California’s older population will continue to change. White Californians accounted for 51% of the population age 65 and older in 2024, down from 64% in 2006. That share is projected to fall to about 41% by 2040, while the Latino share is expected to rise from 23% to 29% and the Asian share from 17% to 21%.

Black Californians are projected to remain

about 6% of the state’s older population through 2040. The report also projects that labor force participation rates among older adults will converge across racial and ethnic groups, reaching approximately 18% by 2040.

The findings highlight the financial pressures facing some older workers. About 20% of Californians age 65 and older were living in poverty in 2023 and 2024, with an additional 14% considered near-poor.

Wages help keep an estimated 800,000 older Californians out of poverty.

The report notes that some older adults continue working by choice, while others do so because their retirement income is insufficient. Rising living costs, limited retirement savings, and changes in public benefits can make continued employment an economic necessity.

As California prepares for an aging population, the researchers point to the importance of workplace flexibility, protection against age discrimination, and policies that support older adults’ economic security.

20 Years of California Climate Law: Gov. Newsom and Former Gov. Schwarzenegger Lead Milestone Celebration

California Gov. Gavin Newsom and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger celebrated two decades of the state’s landmark climate law on Wednesday, Oct. 14, highlighting California’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while growing its economy and expanding clean-energy investment.

The Democratic governor and Republican former governor appeared together at the 15th annual California Economic Summit in Long Beach to mark the 20th anniversary of Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, which Schwarzenegger signed in September 2006. The law established a framework for reducing California’s greenhouse gas emissions and helped lay the groundwork for the state’s cap-and-invest program.

“We’ve shown the world what a state can accomplish,” Schwarzenegger said, highlighting California’s climate leadership.

Newsom credited Schwarzenegger’s decision to sign AB 32 with helping create the state’s cap-and-invest program, which requires companies to reduce their emissions, purchase allowances, or fund projects that offset pollution. Revenue from the program supports climate initiatives, affordable housing and transportation projects, as well as electricity bill credits for residents.

Newsom said California has reinvested \$16 billion to offset residents’ electricity costs since the program began and expects to receive another \$8 billion over the next four years.

He also argued that predictable climate policies encourage businesses to invest in California’s clean-energy economy, pointing to Tesla as an example of the opportunities created by the state’s regulatory framework.

“There’s no Elon Musk without what Gov. Schwarzenegger did because there would be no Tesla,” Newsom said.

Schwarzenegger agreed that long-term policy certainty helps attract investment, arguing that California’s climate initiatives demonstrate that environmental protections and economic development can advance together.

The state extended its cap-and-invest program through 2045 last year, giving businesses a longer-term framework for planning investments and meeting emissions requirements.

However, California’s approach continues to face criticism over energy affordability and regulatory costs. Wayne Winegarden, a senior fellow at the Pacific Research Institute, argued that assessments of the state’s climate policies should more fully account for the high energy costs faced by Californians. Critics have also questioned how much of the state’s economic growth can be directly attributed to its environmental regulations.

The governors’ joint appearance underscored their shared support for climate action despite their political differences. Schwarzenegger has criticized Newsom’s support for Proposition 50, the 2025 redistricting measure that temporarily allowed California lawmakers to redraw congressional districts.

The anniversary comes as California continues to pursue emissions reductions and clean-energy investment while facing questions about the cost of its climate policies for households and businesses.

Former Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Backs Proposition 40 as Billionaire Tax Divides California Labor

By Joe W. Bowers Jr.
California Black Media

California Federation of Labor Unions President Lorena Gonzalez says Proposition (Prop) 40 would provide temporary funding to protect Medi-Cal, hospitals and health care jobs from federal cuts.

Opponents warn the tax could weaken California’s finances.

Prop 40, which is on the Nov. 3 ballot, would impose a one-time 5% tax on billionaires who were California residents on Jan. 1, 2026. Real estate and retirement accounts generally would be excluded.

The measure directs 90% of the revenue to health care. The rest would go to education, food assistance and administration. The money would be exempt from constitutional rules governing school funding and the state’s spending limit.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) estimates the tax would raise tens of billions of dollars over several years. It says changes in billionaire behavior, including leaving California, could reduce state income tax collections by less than \$1 billion a year.

Gonzalez, who represented the 80th District in the State Assembly from 2013 to 2022, said Prop 40 is needed because the federal tax-and-spending law signed by President Donald Trump reduced projected federal Medicaid spending while extending tax cuts. Medicaid is known as Medi-Cal in California.

Gonzalez said Medi-Cal is especially important in Black and Latino communities because it covers many children and families. Some union members also rely on the program.

“If we need to have a bridge to fund Medi-Cal while this president is in office, it makes sense to tax the billionaires,” Gonzalez told California Black Media (CBM).

The money could prevent cuts to Medi-Cal

and help keep hospitals and community clinics open, she said.

Gonzalez also linked health care funding to jobs. Cuts to hospitals and clinics would affect patients and employees, including Black and Latino workers in health care support positions. She pointed to Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital in Los Angeles, which serves predominantly Black and Latino communities, as a safety-net hospital already under financial pressure.

The federation, representing more than 1,300 unions and 2.3 million workers, overwhelmingly endorsed Prop 40 in August. SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West sponsors the measure. Other supporters include U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17).

Gov. Gavin Newsom says he will vote no, arguing that a California-only tax could drive billionaires, businesses and tax revenue elsewhere. He also objects to directing nearly all the money to health care.

Newsom instead supports a national approach. He called for “a true minimum tax on billionaires — a modern Buffett Rule — that ensures the people at the very top pay at least the tax rate their own workers pay.”

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra and Republican candidate Steve Hilton also oppose Prop 40. The California Teachers Association said the measure would not provide sustainable, long-term funding for schools and communities.

Several health care groups agree federal Medicaid cuts threaten Medi-Cal but say Prop 40 is the wrong answer. Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California President and CEO Jodi Hicks said the measure’s uncertain effect on the budget and lack of detail about health care spending “will do more harm than good in the long term.”

California Primary Care Association President and CEO Francisco Silva said Prop 40 could “decimate the very safety-net and workforce

that Medi-Cal patients rely on.” The California Hospital Association said the tax would provide only temporary funding and threaten the state’s long-term finances. It also said the measure would create more uncertainty for hospitals already at risk of closing.

Rick L. Callender, president of the NAACP California/Hawaii State Conference, said the measure would “make many of our problems worse” by putting pressure on the budget and squeezing other public services.

Gonzalez replied, “I don’t know how that’s possible,” arguing that federal health care cuts, not Prop 40, would strain the budget.

Gonzalez said opponents have not identified another way to replace lost health care funding. “This is a solution, and I think it’s highly irresponsible to oppose this tax when there’s been nothing else laid on the table,” she said.

The California Medical Association supports a permanent extension of the state’s existing tax on high-income earners to fund Medi-Cal and education. It says Prop 40 could make that proposal harder to pass.

Opponents also cite a Hoover Institution study that says six billionaires publicly left California before Jan. 1, removing \$536 billion from the proposed tax base. Gonzalez called Hoover a right-wing think tank that sides with billionaires and rejected its projections.

United Domestic Workers and unions representing electrical workers, laborers, carpenters and operating engineers also oppose the measure.

Although the federation endorsed Becerra for governor, Gonzalez said labor does not expect to agree with a candidate on every issue. “At the end of the day, our loyalty is to working people,” she said. “We will take that over any politician any day.”

Prop 40 needs a majority to pass. However, Prop 40 could be blocked even if it passes. If



Lorena Gonzalez, president of the California Labor Federation and former California state assemblymember, was one of two keynote speakers at an affordability conference that brought together policymakers, elected officials and community leaders to discuss California’s affordability challenges. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey. (May 2026)

Proposition 41 or 42 also passes with more “yes” votes, and a court determines that the measures conflict, the conflicting measure with the higher vote total would prevail.

If voters reject Prop 40, Gonzalez said labor would continue seeking money for health care. One option is an assessment on companies whose workers rely heavily on Medi-Cal. Labor could also “take another shot at the billionaires,” she said.

“I’m a labor leader,” Gonzalez said. “I’m going to fight for more funding somewhere.”

Local

Fact check: 6 things to know before you vote, from California’s secretary of state

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

At a statewide media briefing, Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber covered registration deadlines, safety at the polls, and why every vote counts in the Nov. 3 general election.

As the November 3 general election approaches, California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber is encouraging voters to plan ahead and vote early. She shared this message during a virtual media briefing hosted by American Community Media on Oct. 8. Here are seven key takeaways from her remarks.

1. Register by Monday, but it’s not too late after that

Monday, Oct. 19, doesn’t mean missing the election, because Californians can register and vote on Election Day.

“Tell them they are not too late,” Weber said. “They can still register the day of the election on Nov. 3.”

Voters who register on Election Day cast a provisional ballot. Officials hold that ballot until they confirm the voter’s citizenship, residency, and age, and verify the person hasn’t already voted.

2. A past felony conviction doesn’t stop you from voting

Any U.S. citizen who lives in California and will turn 18 or older on Election Day can vote, as long as the person is not currently serving a state or federal prison sentence for a felony.

“Once you have served your time, you are eligible to vote in California,” Weber said. “You don’t have to wait for the governor to approve you.”

3. The rules haven’t changed since June

Weber said a federal effort to shift control of elections to the U.S. Postal Service would have forced voters to register again. According to Weber, the courts struck it down, ruling it was too late for such changes.

That means the rules used in the June primary still apply. Every registered voter who receives a ballot in the mail and has 11 days to vote. Ballots can be returned through mail, dropped in an official

ballot box, or turned in at a polling place.

4. If you’re worried about safety, use a drop box

On rumors that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents would appear at polling sites, Weber said new state rules limit how close uniformed officers can come to polling places.

For anyone still worried, Weber recommended the steel ballot drop boxes, which she called “the

election staff. “We don’t play with our poll workers,” she said.

5. Help is available in many languages, from abroad and in care facilities

According to state elections staff, voting materials are available statewide in English plus nine other languages, and counties offer additional translations. Californians who are traveling or living overseas can request to vote from abroad through

the secretary of state’s office. Residents of assisted-living facilities remain eligible, and the office can help them get their ballots.

6. Black vote is as powerful as anyone’s

On Black voter participation, Weber said she is concerned about people who stay home because they feel their vote doesn’t matter. Things happen every day, she said, “particularly in the Black community, that really matters, and getting engaged is the only way to address them.”

“It’s not like there’s a community that nobody pays attention to,” she said. “Unfortunately, sometimes they pay the wrong attention to us.”

Weber said her office has been reaching voters through churches and community organizations, including the Alphas and Kappas, and reminding people of the long journey to win the right to vote. Her own grandparents, she said, died before the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and never got to cast a ballot.

“Shirley Weber gets one vote. That’s it. Everybody else gets one vote,” she said. “And the reality is your vote is as powerful as mine if you use it.”

The bottom line

Weber’s advice was simple: **make a plan, vote early, and call the voter hotline** or your county registrar with any questions.

“Do not let anyone keep you from voting,” she said.

For more information, call the secretary of state’s voter hotline at 800-345-VOTE (8683) or the Kern County Elections Division at 661-868-3590, or visit sos.ca.gov or kernvote.com.



6 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE

California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber shares key reminders ahead of the Nov. 3 general election.

**1**

Missed the Oct. 19 deadline?

You can still register and vote on Election Day, Nov. 3. You'll cast a provisional ballot while officials verify your eligibility.

**2**

A past felony conviction doesn't stop you from voting.

If you're a U.S. citizen, live in California, and will be 18 or older on Election Day, you can vote once you've served your time.

**3**

The rules haven't changed since June.

The same rules from the June primary apply. You'll have 11 days to return your ballot by mail, drop it in an official ballot box, or turn it in at a polling place.

**4**

If you're worried about safety, use a drop box.

New state rules limit how close uniformed officers can come to polling places. Secure drop boxes are locked and cannot be opened once a ballot is inside.

**5**

Help is available in many languages, from abroad and in care facilities.

Voting materials are available in multiple languages. Californians traveling or living overseas and residents of assisted-living facilities can get help to vote.

**6**

The Black vote is as powerful as anyone's.

Every vote counts. Secretary Weber urged the Black community to stay engaged: "Shirley Weber gets one vote. That's it. Everybody else gets one vote."

Secretary of State Voter Hotline
800-345-VOTE (8683)

Kern County Elections Division
661-868-3590

Learn more at
sos.ca.gov or kernvote.com

most secure voting systems we have.” Once a ballot goes in, she said, it is locked down and cannot be removed.

Voter intimidation is a crime, Weber said. County registrars have been trained on whom to call, and voters can report problems to poll workers or the state voter hotline. Her office will also use the full force of the attorney general’s office to protect

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They're all voting No on Prop 40:

- ✓

California African American Chamber of Commerce
- ✓

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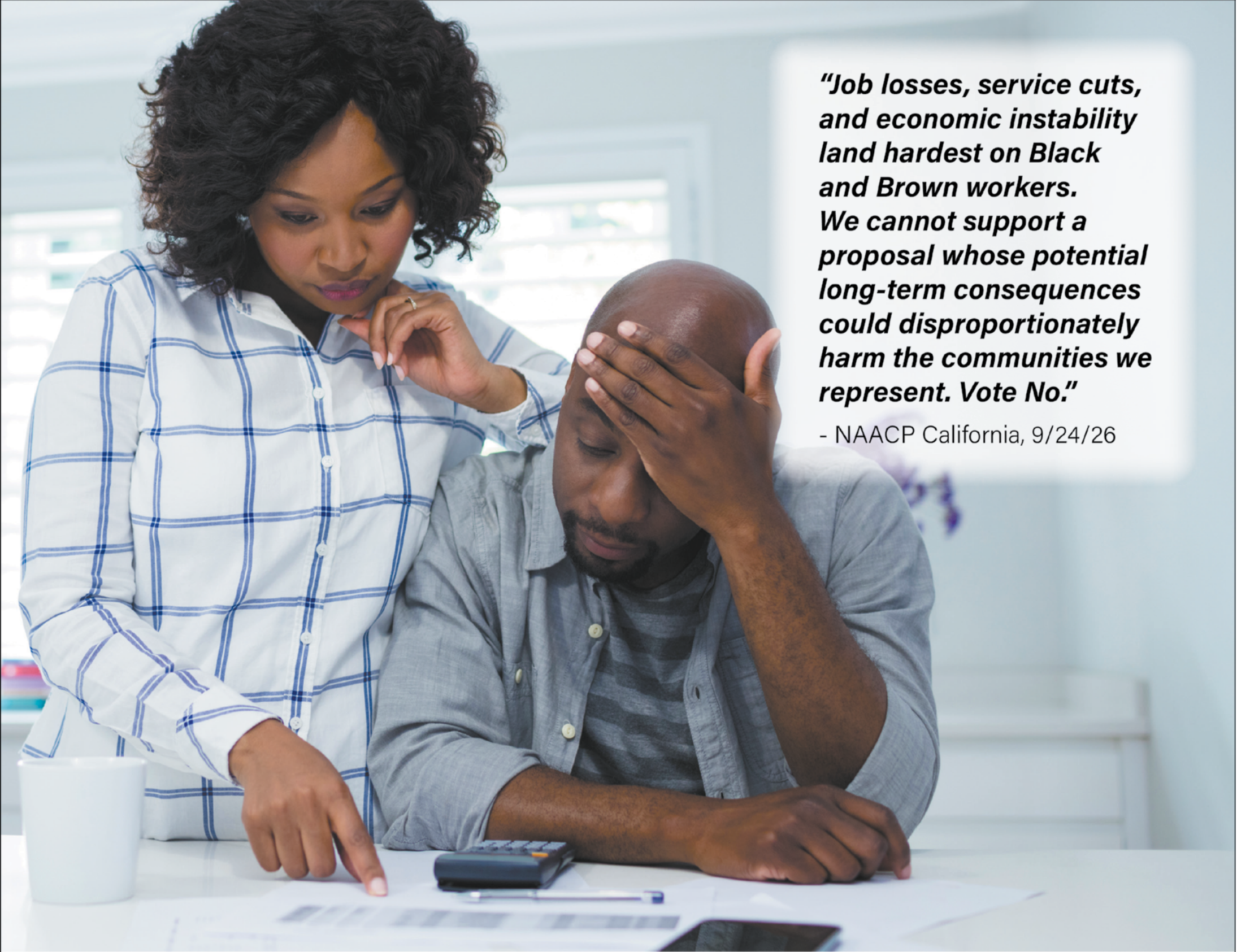
Asm. Mike Gipson
- ✓

California Primary Care Association
- ✓

NAACP California/Hawaii State Conference
- ✓

California Medical Association
- ✓

California School Boards Association



"Job losses, service cuts, and economic instability land hardest on Black and Brown workers. We cannot support a proposal whose potential long-term consequences could disproportionately harm the communities we represent. Vote No."

- NAACP California, 9/24/26

VOTE NO ON PROP 40

Why? Because the Prop 40 wealth tax is a poorly written, flawed measure that doesn't do what it says it will. A Stanford economic analysis showed it will end up costing taxpayers upwards of \$25 billion, which would lead to cuts to our schools, hospitals and clinics, and other important community services.

California can't afford Prop 40.



Scan for more information

VoteNoOn40.org

Ad paid for by No on Prop 40 - Doctors, Teachers, Small Businesses, Working Families and Public Safety Against the Reckless Wealth Tax Experiment. Ad committee's top funders:
Building a Better California
California Primary Care Association Advocates
California Medical Association
Funding details at www.fppc.ca.gov

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PROTECT LOCAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

3 Reasons to Vote YES on PROP 3

- 1

Prop 3 prevents billions in cuts to schools.

Without Prop 3, our local schools and community colleges face devastating cuts which mean even more crowded classrooms and mass teacher layoffs.
- 2

It is not a tax increase.

It keeps the current income tax rate on the wealthiest 2%. Nobody else pays a dime.
- 3

Every dollar is accounted for.

Funding goes to local schools and community colleges, not politicians in Sacramento, with independent audits to prove it.

ENDORSED BY:



Parents, Teachers, Nurses, and Firefighters Agree

VOTE YES ON PROP 3

ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 3

Ad paid for by Yes on Prop 3, sponsored by education and labor organizations.
Ad Committee's Top Funders:
California Teachers Association
National Education Association
California School Employees Association
Funding Details at www.fppc.ca.gov.

A NEW ERA IS COMING

**PROTECT HEALTHCARE
BUILD MORE HOUSING
LOWER THE COST OF LIVING**



XAVIER BECERRA FOR GOVERNOR

VOTE BY NOVEMBER 3

Vote early. Drop off your ballot or mail it in -
No postage needed.

Voter Hotline: (800) 345-VOTE (8683)



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