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Bakersfield News Observer

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Tenn. State Rep. Justin Jones Visits Sacramento;

Gov. Newsom Calls Out "Stone-Cold Racism"

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

On May 7, Justin Jones, a Nashville lawmaker and Oakland native, set fire to a paper replica of the Confederate flag in the Tennessee State Capitol rotunda to protest a Republican-led congressional redistricting plan passed during a special legislative session.

The Tennessee Legislature special session was held amid growing national outrage over voting rights and representation following the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that critics say further weakens protections under the Voting Rights Act and makes it more difficult to challenge racially discriminatory district maps.

A few days later, Jones, a graduate of Fisk University, a historically Black college and university (HBCU) in Nashville, was locked standing arm-in-arm, shoulder-to-shoulder with members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) singing the civil rights movement anthem "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round" in the California State Capitol.

Jones, who represents Tennessee's 52nd District, returned to California to sound the alarm about how the maps alter the political balance by eliminating Tennessee's last remaining Democratic-leaning U.S. House seat. The plan also sliced up Memphis's majority-Black and Democratic population into three districts.

"The only way we defeat this new confederacy is with a united front of the United States. What happens in Tennessee is connected to what happens in California. What happens in the South is connected to what happens in Sacramento."

CLBC chair Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) and Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) joined Assemblymembers Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), Sade Elhawary (D-Los Angeles), Mike Gipson (D-Carson), and Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) at the event.

Assemblymembers Gail Pellerin (D-Santa Cruz), from the California Women's Caucus, and



Tennessee State Rep. Justin Jones, an Oakland native, visited the California State Capitol on May 13, to rally against partisan gerrymandering and what advocates describe as the rollback of minority voting rights across the South. Standing to his right are members of the California Legislative Black Caucus: Asm. Mike Gipson (D-Carson), Asm. Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood), and Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles). CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

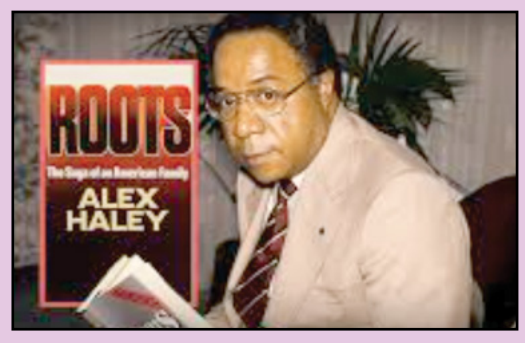
Chris Ward (D-San Diego), from the LGBTQ Legislative Caucus, stood in solidarity with the CLBC.

On May 14, the California State Assembly passed Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 31 with an overwhelming bipartisan majority vote of 60-11. The legislation was referred to the Senate.

AJR 31, authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights) and co-authored by Bonta, calls on the U.S. Congress to enact legislation

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Pulitzer Prize Winning Alex Haley's 'Roots' Banned in Tennessee School District



Alex Haley

A Tennessee school district has banned "Roots," the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alex Haley that helped reshape how Americans understand the history of slavery and African American genealogy.

Knox County Schools confirmed the decision May 14, adding the 1976 book to its banned titles list under the state's Age-Appropriate Materials Act. As previously reported, the fight to keep Black history accessible in schools has intensified nationwide, with "Roots" and dozens of other titles by Black authors under sustained threat, and the erosion of Black educational representation has extended beyond books into university campuses as well. The Knox County Schools "Roots" ban was first confirmed by the Knoxville News Sentinel, which reported the book was among seven titles added to the district's banned list.

The decision brings the district's total number of banned titles to 124, up from 113 in May 2025. Tennessee's Age-Appropriate Materials Act broadly restricts school library materials containing nudity, sexual abuse, sexual content or what it classifies as "excessive violence." While books covered under the law can still be taught in classrooms, they cannot remain on library shelves. Complaints can be raised by staff, students, parents or any Tennessee resident under recently expanded legislation.

The irony of the ban is not lost on observers. Alex Haley was born in Ithaca, New York, but spent his early childhood in Henning, Tennessee, (where his mother was from) and maintained a farm in Clinton that was later acquired by the Children's Defense Fund. There is a large statue of Haley in East Knoxville, where he is celebrated as a hometown literary figure. His 1976 novel spent 22 weeks at number one on the New York Times bestseller list, sold tens of millions of copies, was adapted into a landmark television miniseries, and won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

"Roots" follows multiple generations of an African family beginning with Kunta Kinte, a Mandinka warrior captured and sold into slavery in the American South in the 18th century. It was among the first widely read works to offer a detailed account of the Middle Passage, the transatlantic slave trade route that carried millions of enslaved Africans to the Americas between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Newsom Pushes Fiscally Stable, Education

By Joe W. Bowers Jr.
California Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom presented the final May Revision of his administration on May 14, outlining a state budget proposal he says balances California's finances through 2027-28 while



Gov. Gavin Newsom delivers his final budget May 14, 2026 CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

preserving major investments in education, health care, behavioral health and housing programs.

During a presentation at the State Capitol, Newsom framed the proposal as a response to economic uncertainty, federal policy changes and long-term pressures on state spending.

"We're not just the fourth largest economy in the world," Newsom said, describing California as the "tentpole" of the U.S. economy while pointing to the state's \$4.1 trillion economy and leadership in innovation, manufacturing, agriculture and trade.

Newsom said California's strong economy continues to drive growth and investment but warned that federal Medicaid reductions and other policy changes are creating new fiscal pressures for California and other states.

The revised budget proposal totals about \$349 billion, including roughly \$248.3 billion from the General Fund.

The administration says revenues came in about \$16.5 billion higher than expected over the multiyear budget window, driven largely

by personal income tax collections tied to capital gains earnings.

Newsom and California Department of Finance Director Joe Stephanshaw said the improved revenues allowed the administration to eliminate projected deficits for the next two fiscal years while increasing reserves.

"This is a balanced budget structurally for the next 18 months after I'm gone," Newsom said during the presentation.

Stephanshaw later told reporters the May Revision reflects a multiyear balancing strategy rather than focusing only on the next fiscal year.

"It really is a conservative approach," Stephanshaw said.

The budget relies on spending reductions, fund shifts, reserve adjustments and new revenue proposals, including changes to corporate tax credit rules and expansion of sales taxes to some software products and services.

Education is one of the largest spending areas in the budget.

Under the proposal, Proposition 98 funding

Continued on page A2

Election Day Is Right Around the Corner. Here's How to Prepare

By Solomon O. Smith
California Black Media

Voters in California have two major elections coming up this year: the state primary election on June 2, and the midterm election on Nov. 3.

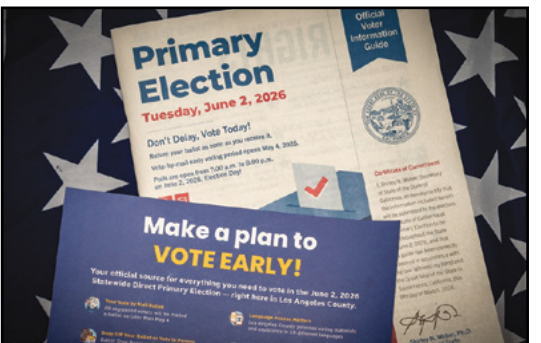
To help make sure eligible state residents understand the voting process, the state has created resources to inform the public.

Shirley N. Weber, California's Secretary of State and chief elections officer, has created a range of online tools to build confidence in the process.

"We are working to make sure that people can see what we do and so that people know that our voting is safe and secure. And that every registered voter has a right to vote in a safe place," said Weber in a conference on voting rights.

First Step, Registration

On the Secretary of State's website, registertovote.ca.gov, voter registration is a click away. Users can register, check the status of their registration or reregister. Online registrants will need a California driver's license, the last four digits of their social security number and date of birth.



To prepare voters, the California Secretary of State mailed reminder cards and Voter Information Guides. The guides contain information on what is on the ballot and how to vote in the upcoming primary election. Saturday, May 18, 2026 Photo illustration by Solomon O. Smith/CBM

There is also a pre-registration for California residents 16 to 17 years old, which automatically registers them when they turn 18 years old.

People without access to a computer can use paper forms which can be found at local libraries, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), post offices and even some government buildings. For further help registering Californians can call the Election Division at (916)657-2166, the voter hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or fill out a help form online.

There is even a step-by-step guide.

In California, the formally incarcerated are also eligible to vote, including those in jail awaiting trial, on probation or under supervision.

"Once you have finished serving your term, your right to vote is restored; however, you must register online at RegisterToVote.ca.gov or by filling out a paper voter registration card," reads the site.

The deadline for registering to vote by mail or online for the primary elections was May 18, but there is still a way to register. Same-day voter registration, or conditional voter registration, allows those who missed the deadline to receive a provisional ballot to vote on Election Day, June 2 from 7a.m. to 8p.m. The same materials for registration are required for provisional registration. The Secretary of State's website offers a list of county election offices and nearby vote centers.

Registered. Now What?

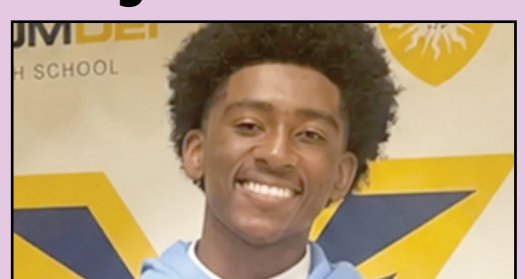
Filling out the ballot is the next step. Ballots were mailed to all registered California voters on May 4, but if a registered voter has not received a ballot, or needs a new one, they still have the option of provisional registration.

Weber's office also provides an online guide to voting which includes a voter's bill of rights, directions on how to get help and other information. The guide has 5 steps to getting the ballot in.

Complete your ballot, make sure it is clearly and completely marked. Seal it inside the ballot return envelope. Sign it.

Make sure you don't forget to sign the outside of the ballot return envelope to avoid delays in counting. Return it quickly. Do not wait. Turn in the ballot as soon as possible. For this step, the state

Formally Homeless Black Teen from LA Graduates with 4.4 GPA, Accepted to 65 Colleges



Lamont Newell

Lamont Newell, an African American teen from Los Angeles, California, earned a full ride to Columbia University after years of housing instability. He was accepted to 65 colleges and will move to New York to study industrial engineering.

Newell is a senior at Verbum Dei Jesuit High School and graduated as valedictorian, holding a 4.4 GPA, standing out academically while balancing a difficult upbringing.

His childhood was marked by repeated homelessness. At times, his family slept in their car, moving often and facing unstable living conditions. He also grew up around gang violence and incarceration, which shaped much of his early environment.

"We've always been moving my whole entire life," Lamont told ABC News. "I couldn't give you an age where we were homeless because it was from a time span, but those were the main issues."

Even with those challenges, school became his steady ground. He credited after-school programs and extracurricular activities for helping him stay focused and consistent throughout high school.

His decision to apply to many colleges came from his family's history. His mother did not get the chance to attend the college she once hoped for, and he became the first male in his family to graduate high school.

"The main reason [I wanted to apply to so many schools] was my mom didn't get to go to the college she wanted to go. She didn't really get to apply as many as she wanted to. So my plan was ... to do the direct opposite," Lamont said.

That motivation helped push him toward a wide range of college applications, eventually leading to 65 acceptances and a full scholarship to Columbia University.

Now, he prepares to study industrial engineering in New York. He also says his long-term goal is to build an institution that helps Black students enter STEM careers and access opportunities in the field.

World & Nation

Thousands Celebrate Culture with 'Around the World Embassy Tour'

By Patricia McDougall
Special to the AFRO

On May 2 the 19th annual Around the World Embassy Tour was held in Washington, D.C., with over 69 Embassies welcoming over 50,000 people. The University District of Columbia (UDC), a historically Black institution, hosted several of the



Niquna Perry (left), Sophia Brown (center) and Frederick Fair, of The Nutmeg Alliance, participate in the tour festivities at the Grenadian Embassy. (AFRO Photo / Patricia McDougall)

embassies.

The Embassy Tour is one of the biggest events in D.C. with music, live performance, dancers,



Shown here, Belizean Ambassador Nestor Mendez (left); Dania Jolley, deputy chief of mission and cultural affairs for Events DC; Jan Du Plain, executive director of the Washington, Education and Cultural Attache Association, and Elvira Mendez (right), spouse of Ambassador Mendez. (AFRO Photo / Patricia McDougall)

singers, cultural food, vendors and more. People lined the streets to tour inside of the embassies. Each year, visitors come from all around the world to take part in the event.



Jessica Poomkudy (back, left) enjoys the embassy tour stop at University District of Columbia with Christina Chance (front, left), Israa Ajroudi (back center); Lizzy Jones (front center), Orissa Symmonett (back, right) and Logan Walker Back (front, right). (AFRO Photo / Patricia McDougall)



Shown here, Lucia Cherinda, deputy chief of mission for the embassy of the Republic of Mozambique, at the University District of Columbia (UDC) stop of the Around the World Embassy Tour on May 2. (AFRO Photo / Patricia McDougall)

Are We Really in the Same Boat? South Carolina Redistricting and the Limits of Coalition Politics

By Greer Marshall
BlackPressUSA Columnist

Rainbow coalitions have a history of leaking on Black folks. There are tons of stories behind that claim; that's probably not relevant right now, but I digress. In Southern politics, the Black electorate has been the engine of the Democratic Party for more than half a century. They've provided the votes, the grassroots infrastructure, and the moral authority that's kept the party alive. That said, at this point, they know when they're being asked to provide the labor for a coalition that doesn't prioritize them. So when Mayra Rivera-Vázquez, a Latina candidate, is running for Congress in South Carolina's 1st Congressional District as the state legislature carves up the only Black district in the state, the question isn't only if she's qualified. The first question is whether she's a legitimate option or, to be more direct, are we really in the same boat?

Eight days after the Supreme Court gutted Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act in Louisiana v. Callais, South Carolina Republicans are moving to trash the June 9 primary and push it to August so they can redraw the congressional map. Democracy is just too risky unless they can guarantee the outcome. Today, the South Carolina Senate is expected to vote on whether to authorize a special session for redistricting. President Trump says he will be "watching closely." The target is Jim Clyburn's 6th District. He holds the state's only Democratic seat and is the only Black representative from South Carolina since Reconstruction. This isn't the first time. In 2023, Republican lawmakers moved roughly 30,000 Black voters out of District 1 and packed them into District 6 to hit a specific racial

target, 17% of the Black vote, to be exact. A federal three-judge panel called it an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. The Supreme Court overturned that ruling in 2024, calling the motive partisan rather than racial, as if the two aren't the same thing in South Carolina. Now, the Callais ruling has given them permission to finish the job. The numbers are the only thing that matters in this story. Before redistricting, Black voters made up 21.4% of District 1. Today, 17.8%. Hispanic voters went from 7.9% to 8.2%. One group diminished with precision. The other was statistically consolidated. John Morgan, a Republican map consultant, testified before the House panel that the proposed map was drawn to deliver a 7-0 Republican sweep of the state's congressional delegation. If you don't believe me, he said that on the record. The cost of this latest maneuver, according to state Election Commission Director Conway Belangia, is at least \$2.2 million in taxpayer money. And that doesn't include county costs. It also renders the military ballots already in the mail dead on arrival. And that's where the public conversation starts telling on itself. The poetic hypocrisy is hard to miss in South Carolina politics. Nancy Mace, the Republican who held the seat Mayra Rivera-Vázquez is running for, wrote in a New York Times op-ed that women in her own party are stuck in "the token slots," claiming they are boxed in while the real power operates behind closed doors. But Mace backs the same anti-DEI crusade that South Carolina Republicans have used to dismiss Black achievement and the credentials of women of color as unearned. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, white women were the largest beneficiaries of DEI initiatives. Mayra

says to be taken seriously by state lawmakers, she practically has to carry her three advanced degrees like a permission slip at all times, "just because of the fact that I am Latina and a woman." District 1 in 2026 is a different beast from the one Mace first won. Mount Pleasant is 90% White with a median household income of \$124,000. Kiawah Island's median income exceeds \$213,000. The new math isn't designed to care for the deeply specific, land-related issues facing the Geechee-Gullah people in places like St. Helena, Wadmalaw, and Johns Island. This is the ghost map Mayra Rivera-Vázquez is running against—an algorithm engineered for the wealthy and for suburban developments, drawn to erase Black districts.

But here's where the coalition question gets uncomfortable. According to the US census, a significant portion of the Latino population in the Lowcountry identifies as white. A middle-class Latino family in Mount Pleasant has a fundamentally different relationship with this district than a Black family that was redistricted out of it. When a chunk of your coalition shares more economic interests with the people who drew the map than with the people who were erased by it, that ain't a coalition.

Mayra says she's not a politician. She's a lawyer, an economist, and the former chair of the Beaufort County Democratic Party, the first Latina to hold that position in South Carolina. She's spent 14 years in the Lowcountry. She stopped a rezoning effort for a golf course on Gullah Geechee land in Beaufort. She organized coalitions against a data center project near the ACE Basin. She's been in hearing rooms fighting for Black land before ever filing to run for anything. Mayra says she's drawn "lines in



Mayra Rivera-Vázquez for Congress

the sand" for working families in the Lowcountry. In fact, she is the only candidate in the District 1 race who can say to the families on St. Helena, "As former chair of the Beaufort County Democratic Party, while Nancy Mace was busy drawing you off the map, I was fighting to keep you in it." When I asked Mayra whether Black voters being displaced should trust a Latina candidate to carry their fight, she didn't dodge the question. "Being a Latina, I could not run for Congress without the fight the Black community in the '60s fought. They helped everyone get the right to vote," she said. "It's because of them that I am even a possibility." Mayra understands whose shoulders she's standing on and isn't pretending otherwise. Are we really in the same boat? I asked her that directly. "Only if we are rowing in the same direction."

Newsom Pushes Fiscally Stable, Education

Continued from page A1

for TK-14 education would rise to about \$127.1 billion, pushing total per-pupil funding to a record high of about \$27,700 when state, local and federal funding are combined.

The budget also includes a 4.31% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), a \$2.4 billion ongoing increase for special education, \$1 billion ongoing for community schools, literacy funding for reading coaches and specialists, and \$5 billion in flexible funding for teacher training and recruitment.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond praised the budget, saying the investments would strengthen literacy, special education, community schools and teacher recruitment.

"I am grateful to Governor Newsom for advancing a budget proposal that continues California's commitment to investing in our students, educators, and schools," said Thurmond.

EdVoice CEO Marshall Tuck also welcomed the education funding, particularly investments in literacy and educator support.

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) raised concerns about the state continuing to withhold roughly \$3.9 billion in Proposition 98 funding owed to schools.

"Unfortunately, the Governor's May Revise masks the underfunding of the Proposition 98 school funding guarantee," CSBA President Dr. Debra Schade said in a statement.

Medi-Cal spending is one of the state's largest fiscal pressures. The administration projects a \$4.2 billion Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) shortfall in the current year, driven by rising enrollment, health care costs and federal policy changes stemming from H.R. 1, known as

the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act."

The budget proposes several Medi-Cal cost-control measures, including restoring asset tests for some recipients, stronger oversight of care services, and changes affecting some immigrant populations.

Federal changes could eventually reduce Medi-Cal enrollment by about 1.3 million Californians by 2029-30, according to administration projections.

The budget continues Newsom's homelessness strategy, including \$500 million for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program.

Newsom said California reduced unsheltered homelessness by about 9% in 2025 through programs such as HomeKey and behavioral health reforms connected to Proposition 1, the 2024 voter-approved measure that expanded funding for mental health treatment facilities, housing and services for people experiencing homelessness.

The budget also includes funding for wildfire rebuilding assistance, affordable housing efforts, behavioral health programs, and workforce initiatives.

State Controller Malia Cohen said the revised budget reflects stronger-than-expected revenues but cautioned that California remains vulnerable to Wall Street volatility and continued dependence on high-income taxpayers.

The administration says the budget reduces projected future operating deficits by more than half compared to earlier forecasts.

The January budget projected a negative \$22 billion balance for 2027-28, while the May Revision now projects a positive balance for that year.

Republicans criticized the budget and

questioned whether the administration had fully resolved California's long-term structural budget issues.

Senate Republican Leader Brian Jones (R-San Diego) criticized the budget's approach to affordability and business costs, warning that it would "increase taxes on employers by \$5 billion in a move that will devastate our beleaguered business community."

Assemblymember David Tangipa (R-Fresno), vice chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, said the budget reflects "a pattern of deferred decision-making — kicking structural problems down the road for the next governor and legislature to inherit."

Democratic legislative leaders generally supported the administration's framework while signaling that negotiations remain underway.

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) said lawmakers must "safeguard health care and food assistance, advance housing affordability, and manage every taxpayer dollar with discipline."

Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) said the Senate remains focused on strengthening reserves while maintaining critical investments.

"We look forward to working with our partners in the Assembly and the Governor's Office to deliver an on-time budget that strengthens the fiscal foundation of the state," said Limón.

The Legislature now begins formal negotiations with the Governor's office to finalize the 2026-27 state budget. Under the California Constitution, lawmakers must pass a balanced budget by June 15 before the new fiscal year begins July 1.

Tenn. State Rep. Justin Jones Visits Sacramento;

Gov. Newsom Calls Out "Stone-Cold Racism"

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that restores and strengthens the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

"For the first hundred years of California's existence, states across this country used poll taxes, literacy tests, and gerrymandering maps to keep Black and Brown people out of the ballot box," Bonta said. "The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was supposed to be the end of that here. On April 29, the Supreme Court decided it wasn't."

David Trujillo, the executive director of ACLU California Action, the legislative and advocacy arm of the ACLU in California, one of the speakers at the gathering, explained that the strategy to prevent Black people from voting has now taken a new form.

"Make no mistake, the forces that supported poll taxes and who beat Americans trying to register to vote in the last century are the same forces today celebrating voter ID laws and the dismantling of Section 2 of the Civil Rights Act," said Trujillo. "Their tactics have changed, but their racist goals remain the same."

Jones noted that his grandparents fled Jim Crow laws in the South and relocated to Oakland,

which Bonta represents. He grew up Hercules, a town in Contra Costa County on the East Bay.

Jones told California Black Media (CBM) that the changing of maps directly affects constituents in his Nashville district by changing which U.S. Congressperson represents them in Washington, D.C.

At his May Budget Revision presentation on May 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom described to CBM that Republican-led redistricting efforts across the country, particularly those that eliminate majority-Black districts, as "Jim Crow 2.0" and "stone-cold racism."

Newsom denounced the Supreme Court's Louisiana v. Callais decision, specifically condemning Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry for his recent moves to eliminate Black representation in the state.

"It's sick. Stone cold racism at a scale I never thought I would see in my life — Never been seen in my lifetime," Newsom told CBM during the Q&A portion of his presentation. "It's all bringing us back to a pre-1960s world. It's jaw-dropping what is happening."

Landry suspended the state's primary election after the Supreme Court's ruling. On May 14, the Louisiana State Senate passed a map, Senate Bill 121, 27-10, that eliminates the state's second majority-Black congressional district. The bill has advanced to the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Approximately 45,000 early and absentee ballots already cast in the congressional primary will be discarded, with Landry directing affected citizens to recast their votes in November, with runoffs, if necessary, set for Dec. 12.

In Tennessee, the Supreme Court's ruling paves the way for Tennessee Republicans to dismantle the state's only majority-Black congressional district in Memphis, which is 63% Black.

Jones said the Tennessee legislature "is not going to stop" at the state level. When the lawmakers reconvene in January, "they are coming after our state legislative districts next as they have at the federal level."

"What I want to be clear about is that we're seeing the largest Black political representation since the end of Reconstruction, and one-third of the Congressional Black Caucus can lose their seats as well as Black lawmakers in state houses," he said.

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Entertainment



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - FEBRUARY 06: (L-R) Aaron Pierre, Jennifer Hudson, Nick Kroll, Stephen Curry, Caleb McLaughlin, Gabrielle Union, Jelly Roll, Jennifer Lewis and Patton Oswalt attend the Los Angeles premiere of Columbia Pictures' and Sony Pictures Animation's "GOAT" at AMC Century City 15 on February 06, 2026 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Amy Sussman/Getty Images)

Steph Curry's Animated Hit 'GOAT' Lands on Netflix After Nearly \$200 Million Box Office Success

The animated comedy, produced by Curry's Unanimous Media, became one of 2026's highest-grossing animated films.

By ODAFE OGHEN

LOS ANGELES, CA — Steph Curry's animated basketball comedy "GOAT" is now available on Netflix. The film, which stars the voices of Caleb McLaughlin, Gabrielle Union, Jennifer Hudson and Jelly Roll, arrived on the platform May 14 after wrapping up a successful theatrical run.

As previously reported, Gabrielle Union and Curry were intentional about centering girls and women in the film's sports world, using the animated format to tell a story that rarely gets told

in mainstream sports movies, and McLaughlin had already flagged "GOAT" as his next major project as he reflected on the end of his decade-long run on "Stranger Things". Forbes reported that the "GOAT" Netflix debut comes after the film earned \$190.4 million worldwide, making it the third-highest-grossing animated film of 2026.

McLaughlin voices Will, a small goat who gets a chance to play roarball, a high-intensity, co-ed, full-contact sport dominated by the world's fastest and fiercest animals. Union voices his idol, a leopard

named Jett Fillmore who plays for the Vineland Thorns. The film was directed by Tyree Dillihay and produced by Sony Pictures Animation, the same studio behind the Spider-Man animated films.

The "GOAT" Netflix landing caps a strong theatrical performance. The film opened at No. 2 at the domestic box office over Valentine's Day weekend with \$27.2 million, then rallied in its second weekend to take the No. 1 spot with \$16.8 million. It closed its North American run on April 26 with \$103.3 million domestically and another

\$87.1 million internationally.

Curry produced the film through his Unanimous Media company and also has a voice role. Along with McLaughlin, Union, Hudson, Curry and Jelly Roll, additional cast members include David Harbour, Nicola Coughlan, Nick Kroll, Jenifer Lewis, Aaron Pierre, Patton Oswalt, among others.

Nicki Minaj Blames Barack Obama and Jay-Z for Her Support of President Trump

Nicki Minaj says her move toward President Donald Trump's politics comes from disappointment with Barack Obama and a long-running personal and professional conflict with Jay-Z. She links those experiences to her growing alignment with Trump-era political messaging and conservative voices.

Minaj has emerged as one of the most visible music figures to engage openly with Trump-aligned politics. She describes her shift as the result of personal experiences, online criticism, and a gradual break from expectations that entertainers should lean Democratic.

According to Time, she says her frustration with Obama played a major role in how her views evolved over time. She also points to her strained relationship with Jay-Z, arguing that industry power structures and career tensions shaped how she sees both politics and cultural influence in the United States.

Her political profile rises further after she faces intense backlash for comments about vaccines during the pandemic. During that period, she received public support from conservative activist Charlie Kirk, which increased her visibility in

right-leaning political spaces.

Minaj also deals with repeated swatting incidents at her home, which she describes as frightening and disruptive. She later seeks help from officials, including Gavin Newsom, and connects with Anna Paulina Luna, who assists her with security-related concerns.

As her public voice grows, Minaj becomes more active in political discussions on social media. She expresses support for voter ID laws and echoes claims made by Donald Trump about election integrity, placing herself closer to his political messaging.

Her alignment with Trump becomes more visible through public interactions and endorsements within his wider political circle. Supporters of Trump point to her as an example of how celebrity influence can reach younger and more diverse audiences.

Minaj says her stance comes from personal conviction rather than pressure. She argues that many celebrities share similar views but avoid speaking publicly, and she presents herself as part of a wider cultural shift in entertainment and politics.



Nicki Minaj and President Trump

Byron Allen to Become CEO of BuzzFeed with \$120M Majority Investment Deal Through Allen Family Digital

The move with BuzzFeed is one of many major transitions for Allen this year, as his 'Comics Unleashed' series will take over the time slot previously held by 'The Late Show With Stephen Colbert' on CBS later this month.

By Brandon Caldwell

Byron Allen, Byron Allen Buzzfeed, Byron Allen Family Office, Allen Family Digital, Buzzfeed

On Monday, the digital media brand announced it had entered into a transaction agreement with Allen Family Digital, LLC, an affiliate of Allen's family office, under which Buzzfeed would accept a majority investment valued at \$120 million. Allen will succeed Buzzfeed founder and CEO Jonah Peretti as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, while Peretti will shift to a newly created role as President of Buzzfeed AI upon the deal's closing.

"Byron Allen has built one of the world's largest media companies and is one of the most accomplished media entrepreneurs in the industry, having spent 30-plus years transforming distribution infrastructure, identifying strategic assets, and scaling them into something much greater," Peretti said in a statement. "Byron's vision, operational experience, and long-term commitment to premium content makes him exceptionally well-positioned to lead Buzzfeed and HuffPost into our next phase of growth. And personally, I'm thrilled

Byron is taking over "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert's" time slot, and highly confident that his relationships with talent will bring some incredible stars to the BuzzFeed platform."



Byron Allen attends the 29th Annual UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation's "Taste For A Cure" honoring George Cbeeks at the Fox Studio Lot on May 01, 2026 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Tommaso Boddi/Getty Images for UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation)

With Allen's arrival, BuzzFeed Studios, which features vertical micro-drama series, animation, digital video and a premium studio that includes feature films, will be an independent entity along with Tasty.

Peretti has served as BuzzFeed's CEO since the company's inception in 2006.

"Jonah is a great visionary and has done a phenomenal job. BuzzFeed and HuffPost have become two iconic global digital media brands with powerful audience reach and strong cultural importance," Allen said. "Our vision is to build on the iconic foundation of BuzzFeed and HuffPost by expanding into free-streaming video, audio and user-generated content. As of this moment, with the power of AI, BuzzFeed is officially chasing YouTube to become another premiere free video streaming service."

Allen is the founder and chairman of Allen Media Group, which is based in Los Angeles. He owns 13 ABC, CBS and NBC network affiliate broadcast television stations in 11 U.S. markets and 10 HD television networks serving nearly

275 million subscribers (including The Weather Channel, Pets.tv, Comedy.tv, Recipe.tv, Cars.tv, ES.tv, MyDestination.tv, JusticeCentral.tv, theGrio and HBCU GO).

Later this month, Allen's two-hour comedy block on CBS will begin. His longtime series "Comics Unleashed" will move up to the 11:35 PM EST timeslot previously held by "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on CBS. After "Comics Unleashed," another Allen-owned property, "Funny You Should Ask," will air right after. The deal for both shows will last through the 2026-27 television season.

"After 20 years as CEO of BuzzFeed, I'm excited to switch my focus to a more hands-on role developing products and technology that are only possible because of recent advances in AI. I'm convinced that AI will fundamentally transform the media industry and empower creative people to build in new ways, and I believe the opportunity is enormous," Peretti said.

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER
26CUB00017
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
12022 Main St.,
Lamont, CA 93241
PETITION OF: DENISE MACHUCA MIRANDA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: DENISE MACHUCA MIRANDA

Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

MILANI DHALIHAL MIRANDA

Proposed name

MILANI MIRANDA

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: June 22, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept: B

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: April 17, 2026
C. Espinosa,
Judge of the Superior Court
Jennifer Pinales,
Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: DENISE MACHUCA MIRANDA
230 B St.,
Arvin, CA 93203
Telephone: (661) 846-0092
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER
26CUB00982
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: CANDICE BARRY FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: CANDICE BARRY

Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name

OLIVIA MARIE JEFFERS

Proposed name

OLIVIA MARIE TRIPPLET

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: June 22, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept: L

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

Non petitioning parent to be served as required by CCP 1277

Date: April 23, 2026

Gina M. Cervantes,

Judicial Officer

Vanessa Guerra,

Deputy Clerk

Petitioner: CANDICE BARRY

3535 Stine Rd., SPC #118

Bakersfield, CA 93309

Telephone: (661) 472-3665

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-82359

Doing business as:

AMARA INDIAN CUISINE & BAR at

3300 BUENA VISTA RD STE D4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311

Mailing Address: 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

SSM63300 INC at 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a 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: April 15, 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 April 20, 2031

15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B2196

Doing business as:

BIG BLEU'S SEAFOOD at 1100 1ST STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

Mailing Address: same County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

WESSIE TABIA LEWIS III at 1100 1ST STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a Married Couple

SIGNED: **WESSIE TABIA LEWIS III**

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: April 9, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

County Clerk

By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 April 9, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B2437

Doing business as:

KERN TRUCKING SCHOOL at 2623 F STREET SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

Mailing Address: 6201 TALLULAH FALLS CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

TRIBAL TRANSPORTS LLC at 6201 TALLULAH FALLS CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company

SIGNED: **MATTHEW PRESLEY, CEO**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/17/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: April 17, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

County Clerk

By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 April 17, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B2437

Doing business as:

KERN TRUCKING SCHOOL at 2623 F STREET SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

Mailing Address: 6201 TALLULAH FALLS CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

TRIBAL TRANSPORTS LLC at 6201 TALLULAH FALLS CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company

SIGNED: **MATTHEW PRESLEY, CEO**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/17/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: April 17, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

County Clerk

By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 April 17, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B2486

Doing business as:

MIGUEL RIVERA GARDENING SERVICES at 12221 CLEMENTA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

Mailing Address: PO BOX 9552, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

MIGUEL ANGEL HUATUCO RIVERA at 12221 CLEMENTA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: an individual

SIGNED: **MIGUEL ANGEL HUATUCO RIVERA**

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: April 20, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

County Clerk

By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 April 17, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B2385

Doing business as:

VINE INSURANCE AGENCY at 3920 STOCKDALE HWY UNIT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

Mailing Address: same County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

VINE INSURANCE SERVICES LLC at 3920 STOCKDALE HWY UNIT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company

SIGNED: **DOUGLAS GRANILLO, CEO**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/01/2025

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: April 16, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

County Clerk

By: M CEDENO, 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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B2486

Doing business as:

MIGUEL RIVERA GARDENING SERVICES at 12221 CLEMENTA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

Mailing Address: PO BOX 9552, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

MIGUEL ANGEL HUATUCO RIVERA at 12221 CLEMENTA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: an individual

SIGNED: **MIGUEL ANGEL HUATUCO RIVERA**

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: April 20, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

County Clerk

By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 April 16, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B2359

Doing business as:

AMARA INDIAN CUISINE & BAR at 3300 BUENA VISTA RD STE D4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311

Mailing Address: 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

SSM63300 INC at 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a 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: April 15, 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 April 20, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B1903

Doing business as:

MASTER BANG'S MARTIAL ARTS at 9620 HAGEMAN RD #A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

Mailing Address: same County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):

MASTER BANG INC at 9620 HAGEMAN RD #A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a Corporation

SIGNED: **CHIRAL DESAI, CFO**

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: March 23, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

County Clerk

By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 April 20, 2031

Corporation

SIGNED: <

Legal Notices

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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 de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVOISO: 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 deshechar 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, CALIFORNIA 91301

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): TODD F. HAINES, ESQ. LAW OFFICES OF TODD F. HAINES

30495 CANWOOD STREET, STE 100, AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301, 420-3092, 818-597-2240 DATE (Fecha): 4/14/2025 TARA LEAL, Clerk (Secretario), by ALEXANDRA VALLES, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)

CNS-400295# BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2740

Doing business as: MBSG Group at 3359 Pegasus Dr Suite 204, Bakersfield, CA 93308 Mailing Address: 1220 Oak Street Suite J PMB 1048, Bakersfield, CA 93304 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **DOUBLE F MUSIC GROUP LLC** at 1220 Oak St Suite J PMB 1048, Bakersfield, CA 93304 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company SIGNED: **FIDEL FRANCO, MEMBER** 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: April 30, 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 May 4, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2696

Doing business as: Rusty's Pizza at 1500 White Road, Bakersfield, CA 93304 Mailing Address: 40 Bernard Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **CVP INVESTMENTS INC** at 40 Bernard Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Corporation SIGNED: **DAVID MASSIE, VICE PRESIDENT** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: December 13, 2022 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: April 29, 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 April 30, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2822

Doing business as: Kern County Autobody & Detail at 2421 K Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 Mailing Address: 2421 K Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **RONNIE RAY CASTRO** at 2421 K Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 The business is conducted by: an Individual SIGNED: **RONNIE RAY CASTRO** 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: May 4, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M CEDENO, 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 May 4, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2202

Doing business as: Southwest Collision at 2609 Texas St, Bakersfield, CA 93307 Mailing Address: 12011 Novara Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93312 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **DEYSI ARELY RIVAS RODAS** at 12011 Novara Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93312 The business is conducted by: an Individual SIGNED: **DEYSI ARELY RIVAS RODAS** 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: April 9, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 April 9, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2872

Doing business as: Live 4 Love / Love Out Loud Music / Some + Sound at 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 Mailing Address: 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **TONY RENE OBRINI** at 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 **NICHELE MAUDINE SPENCER** at 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 The business is conducted by: a Joint Venture SIGNED: **NICHELE SPENCER** 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: May 6, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M CEDENO, 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 April 9, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2824

Doing business as: Hammer and Saw Home Repair at 901 Camino Del Oeste, Bakersfield, CA 93309 Mailing Address: 901 Camino Del Oeste, Bakersfield, CA 93309 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **SCOTT ALAN WHITTAKER** at 901 Camino Del Oeste, Bakersfield, CA 93309 The business is conducted by: an Individual SIGNED: **SCOTT ALAN WHITTAKER** 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: May 4, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 May 4, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2918

Doing business as: Baddie Language, LLC / The Chair Luxe at 6002 Pearl Ridge Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93313 Mailing Address: 6002 Pearl Ridge Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93313 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **BADDIE LANGUAGE, LLC** at 6002 Pearl Ridge Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93313 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company SIGNED: **KRISTAL ASUNCION, 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: May 6, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 May 4, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2696

Doing business as: Rusty's Pizza at 1500 White Road, Bakersfield, CA 93304 Mailing Address: 40 Bernard Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **CVP INVESTMENTS INC** at 40 Bernard Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Corporation SIGNED: **DAVID MASSIE, VICE PRESIDENT** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: December 13, 2022 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: April 29, 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 April 30, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2373

Doing business as: Bayshire Riverwalk Senior Living at 350 Calloway Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93312 Mailing Address: 1817 Avenida Del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **RIVERWALK ASSISTED CARE LLC** at 1817 Avenida Del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company SIGNED: **SCOTT KIRBY, 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: April 15, 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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2855

Doing business as: MTC Mobile Diesel & Gasoline Repair at 1717 Bernard St, Bakersfield, CA 93305

Mailing Address: 1717 Bernard St, Bakersfield, CA 93305 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **MANUEL TENORIO CHAVEZ** at 1717 Bernard St, Bakersfield, CA 93305 The business is conducted by: an Individual SIGNED: **MANUEL TENORIO CHAVEZ** 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: May 5, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M CEDENO, 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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2374

Doing business as: Bayshire Riverwalk Post-Acute at 350 Calloway Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93312 Mailing Address: 1817 Avenida Del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **SKILLED RIVERWALK LLC** at 1817 Avenida Del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company SIGNED: **SCOTT KIRBY, 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: April 15, 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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2872

Doing business as: Live 4 Love / Love Out Loud Music / Some + Sound at 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 Mailing Address: 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **TONY RENE OBRINI** at 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 **NICHELE MAUDINE SPENCER** at 205 Angell St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 The business is conducted by: a Joint Venture SIGNED: **NICHELE SPENCER** 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: May 6, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M CEDENO, 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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2960

Doing business as: B & R Transport 2 at 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 Mailing Address: 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **LAURA ELENA RUIZ** at 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 **DAVID EDGAR BAUTISTA** at 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 The business is conducted by: a General Partnership SIGNED: **LAURA ELENA RUIZ** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: March 2, 2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 7, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M CEDENO, 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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2919

Doing business as: Baddie Language, LLC / The Chair Luxe at 6002 Pearl Ridge Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93313 Mailing Address: 6002 Pearl Ridge Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93313 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **BADDIE LANGUAGE, LLC** at 6002 Pearl Ridge Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93313 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company SIGNED: **KRISTAL ASUNCION, 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: May 6, 2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk By: M VACA RAMOS, 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 May 4, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2937

Doing business as: Southwest WIC at 4621 AMERICAN AVE STE A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309-4080 Mailing Address: PO BOX 21810, Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Corporation SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief Executive Officer** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 15, 1996 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 7, 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 August 9, 2016

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2947

Doing business as: South Central Children's Bakersfield Health Center at 3105 WILSON ROAD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304-5319 Mailing Address: PO BOX 21810, Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Corporation SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief Executive Officer** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 9, 2016 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 7, 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 August 9, 2016

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2943

Doing business as: Greenfield Community Health Center at 9001 SOUTH "H" STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307-5948 Mailing Address: PO BOX 21810, Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Corporation SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief Executive Officer** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: March 1, 2019 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 7, 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 May 7, 2031

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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2374

Doing business as: Bayshire Riverwalk Post-Acute at 350 Calloway Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93312 Mailing Address: 1817 Avenida Del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **SKILLED RIVERWALK LLC** at 1817 Avenida Del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company SIGNED: **SCOTT KIRBY, 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: April 15, 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 April 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2960

Doing business as: B & R Transport 2 at 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 Mailing Address: 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **LAURA ELENA RUIZ** at 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 **DAVID EDGAR BAUTISTA** at 7800 Horsley Park Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93307 The business is conducted by: a General Partnership SIGNED: **LAURA ELENA RUIZ** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: June 1, 2013 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 7, 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 August 9, 2016

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2940

Doing business as: Greenfield Community Health Center at 9001 SOUTH "H" STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307-5948 Mailing Address: PO BOX 21810, Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Corporation SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief Executive Officer** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: March 1, 2019 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 7, 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 May 7, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO: 2026-B2946

Doing business as: West Delano Dental Center at 441 DIAZ AVENUE, DELANO, CA 93215-4121 Mailing Address: PO BOX 21810, Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: a Corporation SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief Executive Officer** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: June 1, 2021 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 7, 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

Features

Why Timeless Materials Still Influence Today's Remodeling Trends

By Amy Kang Remodeling trends influence your materials selection and the success of your home remodel. Options like hardwood flooring, natural stone countertops, and marble-inspired tile remain popular among homeowners looking to create spaces that feel both comfortable and stylish. These timeless materials also reduce the need for frequent updates, making them a cost-effective option in the long term. Today's homeowners aren't letting an uncertain economy stop them from improving their homes. In fact, nearly all (91%) say they'll proceed with their remodeling plans for 2026, per a recent U.S. Houzz report. Of homeowners planning to remodel, three in four (75%) expect to spend \$10,000 or more on their projects. As these individuals budget for home improvements, many are choosing materials that offer beauty, flexibility, and long-lasting value. This trend explains why classic materials remain the epicenter of modern home remodeling projects. What Makes Timeless Materials Dominate Remodeling Trends?

As the name suggests, timeless materials never fade away with the trends. Here's why:
 They are functional and durable
 They create a strong focal point
 They blend nicely with different design styles
 Timeless features not only offer a marriage of form and function. They also support both traditional and modern design styles. This flexibility gives homeowners confidence that their investment will still look stylish years later. Top examples of timeless home finishes include: Hardwood flooring
 Natural stone countertops
 Marble-inspired tile
 Brushed metal fixtures
 Neutral porcelain surfaces
 Be the first to know about breaking news, articles, and updates. These materials also support enduring renovation trends because they are easier to maintain over time. Consider the use of Marble Look Tile in bathrooms and kitchens, for example. This material: Exudes the classic elegance of natural marble

Requires little effort to clean and maintain
 Offers durable performance
 Additionally, it fits well within both minimalist and luxury design styles. Why Are Classic Design Materials So Valuable in Modern Homes?
 Angi estimates that home remodel costs can range from \$19,000 to \$88,000 per square foot, depending on the room you're upgrading and the materials you choose. Since the total cost can add up quickly, many homeowners now prefer long-term value over fleeting trends.
 Timeless materials often provide:

Increased durability
 Timeless aesthetic appeal
 Greater design flexibility
 Higher resale value
 Easier coordination with future updates
 For example, hardwood flooring can complement modern furniture, farmhouse décor, or industrial-style interiors. This ability to match changing preferences makes these materials practical choices for homeowners. How Does Traditional vs. Modern Design Influence Remodeling Choices?

Traditional design is often seen as the opposite of modern design. Yet, many modern homeowners no longer choose one style over the other. Instead, they combine modern simplicity with timeless materials to create spaces that feel practical, balanced, and inviting.

Consider brick, for example. While it's usually associated with a more traditional style, it can be beautifully incorporated into modern living spaces to create a unique but unified look. In the same vein, large windows can be added to a traditional-style home to bring in as much natural lighting as possible into the interior space and make the space look and feel more modern. Why Are Neutral and Natural Finishes Growing in Popularity?
 Many homeowners want to enjoy quiet luxury. Neutral and natural finishes can provide the subtle elegance needed to achieve it.

These finishes create a clean and calming environment, evoking a sense of authenticity and serenity in the room. They also allow homeowners to update furniture and décor without replacing major surfaces.

Some popular examples of natural-inspired finishes include:
 Warm beige tones
 Light oak textures
 Soft gray stone surfaces
 Matte ceramic finishes
 Cream colored porcelain tile

If you want to enjoy comfort and design flexibility, look no further than these finishes. Designers often recommend them because they help create an illusion of space in smaller rooms—that is, make rooms appear larger and brighter. In this era of green building practices, natural finishes also align with sustainability goals. Many eco-conscious homeowners now want products that last longer and reduce waste from constant remodeling. Hardwearing surfaces with timeless styling help meet this goal and save money by reducing the need for repairs and replacement. As homeowners continue seeking practical and attractive spaces, classic materials will likely remain



A modern kitchen featuring natural stone countertops and hardwood flooring.

the epicenter of tomorrow's remodeling trends. Frequently Asked Questions

Are Timeless Materials More Expensive?
 Classic design materials tend to have higher upfront costs than trendy modern alternatives. However, they often offer better long-term value because they maintain both function and appearance for many years.

These durable materials can reduce repair and replacement expenses over time, making them a smart long-term investment for renovating homeowners.

Why Do Designers Recommend Neutral Colors?

Warm neutral colors complement many lighting choices, furniture styles, and decorative accents. They also make rooms feel brighter and more airy. Today's designers recommend neutral color palettes because homeowners can refresh their spaces with small updates; no need for major renovations every few years.

Can Timeless Materials Work in Small Homes?
 Timeless elegance isn't reserved for expensive homes alone. You can use classic design materials to make your small house feel more open, organized, and luxurious.

Natural wood surfaces, marble-inspired tile, and soft stone finishes can create a clean appearance without making rooms feel cramped. Many

homeowners use these materials to improve visual flow throughout compact spaces.

How Often Do Remodeling Trends Change?
 The frequency of design trends varies. Some design trends change every few years, especially paint colors and decorative accents. However, foundational materials like stone, wood, and porcelain tile tend to remain popular much longer.

These surfaces adapt well to many styles, which helps them stay relevant through changing design cycles. What Rooms Benefit Most from Timeless Materials?

Rooms that experience frequent use and have moisture issues, such as kitchens and bathrooms, can benefit greatly from timeless materials.

Areas of the home that receive high traffic, like living rooms and hallways, can also benefit from durable flooring and natural finishes. Using timeless materials helps homeowners maintain an attractive, uniform appearance throughout the home.

Timeless Materials Exude Elegance That Never Goes Out of Fashion

Today's homeowners want improvements that remain attractive and functional long after remodeling trends shift. Timeless materials never fade away with the trends because they offer durability, flexibility, and lasting style. Natural textures, neutral finishes, and stone-inspired surfaces continue to meet (and exceed) those expectations.

Why Noise is the Biggest Productivity Killer in Open Offices

By Dax Janel Valencia

Noise is one of, if not the biggest, workplace productivity killers in open office design, as the constant, uncontrollable disruptions it causes can impair workers' concentration and increase stress levels. Whether it's loud or subtle, it can also derail cognitive performance, further reducing productivity.

Science backs those claims up. As pointed out by the Insulation Institute, researchers found that when exposed to the "noise" of even just a single conversation nearby, workers in open-plan offices become up to 66% less productive. Taking the time to understand the massive noise impact on work can help you (as an employer or employee) make more informed decisions regarding quiet workplace solutions. Why Does Workplace Productivity Matter? Workplace productivity is a crucial metric that indicates business success. If you're an employer, you want your people to be productive, as it empowers them to "produce" more with fewer resources, leading to: Higher revenues
 Improved customer satisfaction
 Better customer and talent acquisition and retention

Helping your employees become more productive can also help promote engagement. Employee engagement is vital to workplace productivity, whereas disengaged workers lead to lower profitability. Unfortunately, more employees feel disengaged. The latest State of the Global Workplace report from Gallup (2026) found that only 20% of global employees feel engaged. If you're an employee, you want to be productive since it's a key driver of your personal career growth. When you're productive, you'll likely be able to maintain a better work-life balance. High productivity levels can make you feel more satisfied with your job and employer. Why Is Noise the Biggest Productivity Killer in Open Offices? From impairing workers' concentration to making stress levels soar, these are key reasons noise is a primary culprit behind low workplace productivity in offices with an open layout. Studies have also found that it can impact cognitive performance. Reducing Concentration Levels Noise can be a distractor; it can interfere with one's concentration by: Using part of the brain's cognitive resources

Overloading the brain (e.g., if there's too much noise, it's too loud, or it's subtle yet nagging and annoying)

Impeding information processing
 Activating stress responses
 An article published on MDPI.com also cited the findings of previous studies, one of which suggested that noise slows the response time for information processing. It also noted another study that found exposure to loud noises led to a significant reduction in working memory and attention spans. Increasing Stress Levels You'd want

to address and reduce office noise, whether as an employer or employee, because the longer the problem goes on, the more likely that people in the office will experience elevated stress levels. Always remember that noise, as a distractor, can also be a stressor. Indeed, one study published in Oxford Academic found that exposure to high-intensity noise activates the sympathetic nervous system (SNS). It further notes that these sounds (often unwanted, unpleasant, and disruptive) reduce processing speed and impair work performance. The SNS is part of your autonomic nervous system (ANS). One of its chief responsibilities is to regulate and manage your body's fight or flight stress response. If a noisy environment keeps this response "engaged," you may experience chronic stress. Derailing Cognitive Performance As mentioned above, noise consumes cognitive resources. The longer this goes on, the more "brain" resources noise uses until it reaches the point that you may no longer have any left for actual work. You may feel mentally tired, unable to complete tasks requiring cognitive abilities. How Can Employers Address Noise and Increase Productivity in the Workplace? As an employer who wants to improve office productivity and support your employees' well-being and career growth, consider investing in soundproofing (physical acoustic treatments). Creating quiet zones and barriers can also help. Physical Acoustic Treatments Experienced, licensed contractors can help you design noise-resistant workspaces with acoustic panels. They're sound-absorbing materials installed on walls and ceilings, aimed at reducing echoes and reverberations. You can also get and install a soundproof office pod for private workspace areas. Adding Sound-Dampening Soft Materials Soft materials, such as acoustic flooring, carpets, and rugs, can be good additions to quiet areas for workplace productivity. With these as a replacement for hard surfaces, they can dampen and soften sounds made by movement and footsteps.

Creating Quiet Zones Delegating "quiet zones" in areas featuring an open office design is another productivity-boosting strategy. They're areas separated from collaborative or higher-traffic sections. You can make quiet zones even more effective (and protected against noise) with strategic furniture placement. You can, for instance, use high-backed furniture, bookshelves, and even plants to create natural partitions that also serve as sound barriers. Frequently Asked Questions What Other Environmental Factors Affect Workplace Productivity?

Noise aside, the temperature in the office can make or break workplace productivity. Whether it's too warm or too cold, employees working in such environments may feel sluggish, unable to focus, and may become more prone to making mistakes.

Lighting is another factor. Proper, adequate

lighting can enhance focus, reduce eye strain, and boost moods. Conversely, poor lighting (e.g., lights that flicker or are too dim) can lead to headaches, fatigue, increased error rates, and lower motivation.

Indoor air quality can also affect productivity. It can either make you and your employees productive or sick.

What Tactics Can Employees Use to Boost Their Productivity? If you're an employee and your workplace is too noisy, one of the first things you should do is speak with your manager about sound ergonomics. It would also help to ask your co-workers if they find the work environment distracting due to all the constant, uncontrolled sounds. In the meantime (as your employers work on making things less noisy), focus on one task at

a time to boost concentration and productivity. Take mini breaks, too (e.g., 5-minute breaks to just stretch or walk around for every 25 minutes of work). You can also try noise-canceling headphones. Keep the Noise in Workplaces Down Given that it can impair concentration, increase stress levels, and impede cognitive performance, it's no wonder noise is one of, if not the leading, killers of workplace productivity.

Don't let it affect yours any further. Instead, invest in acoustic treatments and quiet zones to put a stop to noisy, distracting work environments.

Find other related reads, informative guides, and the latest news coverage curated for the Black community by browsing the rest of our website.

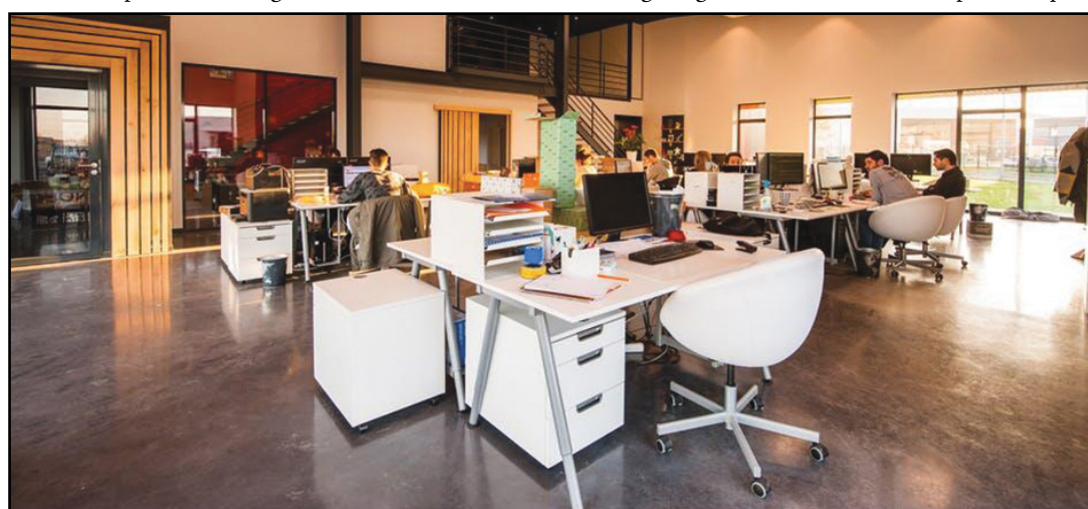




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He Saw Us. He Heard Us. Why the California Black Women's Collective PAC Endorses Tom Steyer for Governor

By Kellie Todd Griffin

California Black Women's Collective PAC

Every election cycle, the routine is the same. Candidates show up at our churches, our sorority events, our community forums. They say our name. They tell us they see us. They tell us they need us.

And then they govern like they forgot we existed.

Black women in California are the most reliable voting bloc in the Democratic Party. We are the cultural and economic engine of communities across this state. We are mothers, caregivers, business owners, organizers, and the keepers of our families' histories. And we are tired of being courted in campaign season and forgotten in governing season.

That is exactly why the California Black Women's Collective PAC's endorsement process for the 2026 Governor's race was different.

Before we sat down with a single candidate, we sent each of them a briefing memo grounded in our research. Data on Black women's wages. Data on maternal health. Data on housing instability, caregiving burdens, criminal justice exposure, business ownership, and political representation. We did not want anyone walking into our interview room performing. We wanted to know who had done the reading. We wanted to know who could engage the data. We wanted to know who could speak to the lived realities behind the numbers.

Tom Steyer did the reading. And then some.

He Engaged the Data. He Named the Realities.

When we asked Tom about the economic vulnerability of Black women in California, he did not deflect to generic uplift language. He spoke specifically. About the wage gap. About the maternal mortality crisis that disproportionately kills Black mothers. About the wealth chasm that leaves Black women with a fraction of the assets held by their white male counterparts.

He spoke about Black girls. About the pipeline failures in schools, in healthcare, in mental health systems, that shape their futures before they ever



Tom Steyer, a Democratic candidate for California governor. Photo courtesy of Tom Steyer for Governor campaign.

reach adulthood.

He referenced our data. He named our communities. He saw us.

That alone would have been notable. But let's be honest: endorsements are not built on a good interview. They are built on a record.

And Tom Steyer's record is one of the most substantial investments in economic mobility, civic engagement, and racial justice infrastructure of any candidate in this race.

In 2007, Tom Steyer and Kat Taylor founded Beneficial State Bank. Not as a profit play. As a community development financial institution explicitly designed to extend credit and capital to communities that traditional banking has historically locked out.

One hundred percent of the bank's economic rights are owned by nonprofit organizations. Profits are reinvested into the communities the bank serves, with at least 60% of its lending directed to low-to-moderate income communities.

Black women are among the fastest-growing groups of entrepreneurs in California. We are also among the most chronically underfunded. We know what predatory lending looks like, because we have lived under it. We also know what real capital access

looks like, because we have seen what happens when it appears.

Tom built an institution that does the second.

Through NextGen America, the organization Tom founded in 2013, he has spent more than a decade investing in voter engagement infrastructure. NextGen has registered more than 1.6 million young voters, with a deliberate focus on Black and Latino youth. In 2020 alone, NextGen reached more than 10.5 million young people and helped mobilize 4.7 million to the ballot box, contributing to the highest youth voter turnout in modern American history.

That kind of sustained investment matters.

Black political power is not built in the final days of a campaign. It is built year-round, in community, with consistent resources. Tom has put real money behind that proposition for more than a decade, long before it became politically convenient to do so.

Look at what Tom has actually done with his resources and his platform.

He led the campaign for Proposition 39, which closed a corporate tax loophole and has directed hundreds of millions of dollars into California schools and clean energy projects. Schools that serve our children.

He took on Big Tobacco to fund cancer research and prevent teen smoking. A public health fight that mattered directly to Black communities that the tobacco industry has targeted for generations.

He campaigned on forgiving certain categories of student loan debt, cracking down on predatory student loan servicers, and made a ten-year, \$125 billion investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) a centerpiece of his 2020 presidential platform. Because he understood that Black graduates carry disproportionately heavy debt loads. Because he understood that HBCUs are foundational to building Black professional and economic power.

And on reparations, the issue that exposes

which candidates are willing to walk through fire and which are not, Tom Steyer was unafraid.

In our interview he continued on his commitment to support reparations for the descendants of enslaved Blacks in California, which he committed to during his 2020 presidential race, when most Democratic candidates were tiptoeing around the question. He took political hits for it. He said it anyway.

California is at an inflection point. We are facing an affordability crisis, a housing crisis, a maternal health crisis, and a democracy under sustained federal assault. Black women and girls sit at the intersection of every one of these emergencies.

We do not need a governor who acknowledges that reality in a campaign speech. We need a governor who has spent years building the institutions, funding the organizing, and taking the unpopular positions that the moment requires.

Tom Steyer is not a perfect candidate. No candidate is. And we know there are things that we didn't agree with. But when our PAC evaluates a leader, we ask three questions: Have you done the work? Can you speak to our reality with specificity? Will you fight, on day one, for the policies that move Black women and girls from survival to power?

On all three questions, Tom Steyer earned this endorsement.

He saw us. He heard us. His record, his bank, his long-term investment in voter engagement, his unflinching support for reparations, his fight on student debt, his commitment to environmental justice, proves he understood what we were saying long before we walked into the room.

The California Black Women's Collective PAC is proud to endorse Tom Steyer for Governor of California.

We've done the work of holding this field accountable. Now it's time to hold the next administration accountable too.

We'll be watching. And we'll be voting for Tom Steyer.



When Life Gives Us Lemons, We Build Institutions

By Dawn Montgomery

BPUSA Contributor

Since January, I have been exploring and writing about school choice options in Atlanta, Mississippi, and Louisiana. I've focused specifically on schools committed to empowering Black students and families. Southern Lab was the first stop on this journey but the last story I decided to publish.

More than an outstanding example of school choice, the Southern University Lab School in Baton Rouge is proof of what Black communities can build when existing institutions shut them out. The question is not whether school choice can work for Black families. The question is why more HBCUs aren't building K-12 pathways of their own.

The day I arrived at the Southern University Laboratory School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the girls' varsity basketball team was on the verge of winning its third consecutive division championship. The hallways were filled with students, teachers, and staff. The atmosphere was spirited and, dare I say, loud. I'm from Mississippi, so I understand that type of carrying on. Game day is a time for celebration, and to NOT thank God for your school team on that day is surely a sin. By the end of that school visit, something very specific shifted in me. I could not immediately put

my finger on it. Then it "Dawned" on me. The Southern Lab School is a school choice option I had not considered. Their story is not only about legacy. It's also about fortifying Black institutions. In 1922, Jim Crow laws blocked Black student teachers from completing their classroom certification in segregated public schools. So, Dr. Joseph Samuel Clark, then president of Southern University, built a school on campus to train and certify them. He did not seek permission from the same state that righteously believed in locking them out. He simply solved the problem. The school has changed its name over the years, which is perhaps the least significant detail in its history. However, what does matter is that it has remained on an HBCU campus for more than a century. That fact alone shapes everything about what it is and what it can do. Connected to the College of Education, the Law Center, and the College of Science and Engineering, it functions as a school district within the Southern University system. Throughout the day, students move back and forth between the Lab School and the university, accumulating college credits before they graduate high school. I was told that roughly 33 percent of the staff and faculty are alumni. Among them is the principal, Nadia Seals, who arrived at the Lab School in middle school, attended Southern, did her student teaching there, and never really left. Herman

Brister, the school's director and a second-generation alum, put it this way: "You can come on this campus from pre-K to a PhD. Graduates return as teachers. Teachers' children become students." That means a four-year-old who enters the Lab School can be taught by alumni, coached by alumni, and mentored by people who once walked those same halls. Then she can cross the street to the university she's known since she could walk. Imagine that. All of that on an HBCU campus, constructed when the state wouldn't credential Black teachers. Continuity is the architecture. Brister said something else that stayed with me. He was talking about how the Lab School handles its high-level athletes. "Many times, students are taken advantage of because of their athletic ability. But we safeguard our kids. We've had some of the top players in the nation, but when they walk around campus, they're just a normal person. We don't treat them any differently. We make them feel normal." As a journalist who has spent more than a decade covering college and professional athletes, I have seen what happens to black high school athletes in environments where they are not protected. For Black children, especially those marked early as exceptional, normal can be protection. "We make them feel normal." Normal. That's the whole argument. There are more than a hundred historically Black colleges and universities

in the United States. Only a small number operate K-12 laboratory schools. Most don't. But most could. They have the campus. The community. The families who would trust an institution tied to their own university. What Dr. Clark did in 1922 wasn't just extraordinary—it was necessary. Is that really out of reach for Howard University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, Tuskegee University, or Jackson State? The moment our ancestors earned the opportunity to choose, we turned abandoned buildings into schools. They believed education was the currency that would fund Black futures. Southern has protected both its university and its Lab School for a century. That's the template. The more time I spent there, the clearer it became that Southern Lab wasn't waiting for the country or the state to decide whether Black education was worth defending. When I asked Brister whether he was concerned about DEI rollbacks, he flat-out said, "No." Just like his predecessors, his focus is on the mission. The Lab School exists because more than a century ago, a community understood something very important. Institutions shaped by the people they serve are the only ones that last. I love that part of our story. When life gives us lemons, we don't just make lemonade. We build institutions.

Democrats Don't Want to Protect the Black Vote. They Want to Own It

By Craig J. DeLuz

The Supreme Court has done something remarkable.

It has ruled that the Constitution means what it says. The Equal Protection Clause forbids racial discrimination. Apparently, this is controversial.

The court's decision striking down Louisiana's court-mandated congressional map has sent Democrats into theatrical fits of outrage. Chuck Schumer calls it a return to Jim Crow. Barack Obama says the court is abandoning its role in protecting minority rights. Kamala Harris warns of a grand conspiracy to suppress the Black vote.

But before accepting this narrative, it is worth asking a straightforward question: if Democrats are so deeply concerned about Black Americans, why do their concern so reliably align with their own electoral interests?

To understand what is actually at stake, one must be honest about history. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was not born from paranoia or partisan calculation. It was born from documented, systematic, legally enforced brutality against Black political participation across the Deep South. States deployed literacy tests designed to be failed. Poll taxes priced Black citizens out of the ballot box. Registrars turned away qualified Black applicants on technicalities invented on the spot. In some counties where Black residents constituted a majority, virtually none appeared on the voter rolls. Those who pressed the matter risked their livelihoods, their safety, and sometimes their lives. Selma was not a metaphor. It was a bridge, and the people beaten on it were trying to do nothing more than register to vote.

The Voting Rights Act was a necessary and just response to a genuine and documented emergency. It deserves to be honored. Which is precisely why it deserves to be applied honestly, rather than stretched

beyond recognition to serve ends its authors never intended.

Consider what the Louisiana court-ordered map actually looked like. To manufacture a second majority-Black congressional district, a court forced the state to draw a district stretching roughly 150 miles (from New Orleans to Shreveport) carving through the heart of the state to stitch together Black populations in communities more than a hundred miles apart. Geographic compactness, one of the fundamental standards for legitimate districting, was thrown out entirely. The goal was not coherent representation. The goal was racial arithmetic.

Justice Alito, writing for the majority, stated the principle plainly: Section Two of the Voting Rights Act was designed to enforce the Constitution, not collide with it. When courts force states to draw majority-minority districts, they are not fighting racial discrimination. They are mandating it. They are requiring the government to sort citizens by race and draw boundaries accordingly. The 15th Amendment forbids exactly that.

Democrats will not say this part out loud, but Hakeem Jeffries said the quiet part loud enough. His complaint about the decision was not primarily that Black voters would suffer. His complaint was numerical and nakedly partisan. By some estimates, he warned, this ruling could cost Democrats as many as 19 additional House seats. There it is.

The civil rights vision of the 1960s; equal treatment under the law regardless of race; had been quietly replaced by a political vision requiring racially proportional outcomes engineered by the government. This Supreme Court decision is a partial return to the original vision. The response from the Democratic establishment confirms this diagnosis perfectly. When you strip away the rhetoric, what Democrats are arguing is this: Black voters tend to vote Democratic. Democratic seats are

at risk, therefore any map that reduces Democratic seats is racist.

The facts on the ground make the "voter suppression" narrative increasingly difficult to sustain. Black voter turnout has exceeded White voter turnout in several of the last five presidential elections. More than 60 Black Americans currently serve in Congress, the overwhelming majority of them elected from districts where Whites and voters of other races constitute a significant share of the electorate.

Barack Obama won two presidential elections, winning 43% of White voters and 67% of Latino voters in 2008.

In Virginia's race for governor last year, the White candidate Abigail Spanberger won 90-93% of the Black vote in her Virginia contest, while the Black candidate Winsome Sears won 61% of the White vote in hers.

A country that systemically suppresses the Black vote does not produce these results.

The men and women who wrote and passed the Voting Rights Act were responding to conditions they could see with their own eyes: fire hoses, billy clubs, and registration offices that were open to White applicants and closed to Black ones. They built a law calibrated to that specific and documented emergency. The social landscape of 2026 is not the social landscape of 1965.

Republican Representative Wesley Hunt of Texas, when asked about the absence of Black Republicans in a new congressional term, gave the only answer consistent with genuine racial equality.

"I'm not here because I'm Black. I am here because I am qualified," he said. "That is the civil rights ideal; a person judged by their competence and character, not sorted into political categories by the color of their skin."

Take California, for example, not a single Black lawmaker at the federal or state level represents a majority Black district. To remain electable, those Black officials have had to figure out how to create political platforms that appeal to a broad majority of voters in their districts — just as the Constitution imagined.

The men and women who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge were fighting for the right to vote as free citizens, not the right to be assigned to a district based on their skin color by a federal court. There is a profound difference between protecting a vote and controlling it. One is a civil right. The other is a political strategy.



The U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. The court has become central to national debates over the Voting Rights Act, race and congressional redistricting. Photo courtesy of Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Political



California's "Big City Mayors" coalition traveled to Sacramento in March 2026 to lobby for \$1 billion in state homelessness funding — a 50% increase over the amount proposed in the governor's budget. From left are mayors Patricia Lock Dawson (Riverside), Rex Richardson (Long Beach), Barbara Lee (Oakland), and Matt Mahan (San José). CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.



Gov. Gavin Newsom delivers his final budget May 14, 2026 CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

Homelessness Crisis Looms Large in Newsom's May Budget Revision

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed 2026–27 May budget revision includes \$500 million for the state's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program, a reduction from the \$1 billion allocations provided in previous funding rounds.

During his May 14 May Revision presentation, Newsom defended the reduced allocation, telling California Black Media (CBM) that the funding "is not a cut" or "an entitlement."

"As a former mayor, I can assure you we never got any support. Not a dollar (to address homelessness)," Newsom shared with CBM. "This is one of dozen areas of support across the spectrum. The \$500 million is new money."

Established in 2019, HHAP is a state-funded block grant program that provides flexible funding to local governments to prevent and reduce homelessness. The funds support permanent housing construction, shelter operations, rental assistance, and wraparound services. Administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the program emphasizes regional coordination and evidence-based strategies to move unhoused Californians into permanent housing.

The proposed reduction comes as local leaders warn that scaling back HHAP funding could reverse progress made in reducing homelessness across the state.

Leaders from California's 13 largest cities, known as the "Big City Mayors Coalition," traveled to Sacramento in April to advocate for a permanent \$1 billion annual investment in the program.

Mayors including Rex Richardson of Long Beach, Barbara Lee of Oakland, Todd Gloria of San Diego, and Patricia Lock Dawson of Riverside argued that reduced state support could force thousands of people back onto the streets. According to the coalition, the funding decrease could eliminate as many as 6,000 shelter beds statewide and place up to 41,000 people currently housed or in temporary shelter at risk of returning to homelessness.

Lee said Black residents in Oakland are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

"Oakland requires a racial equity approach at every single level of government through our programs that prevent homelessness and create more housing opportunities," Lee said. "I can't accomplish any of this without HHAP funding."

The HHAP reduction is part of Newsom's nearly \$350 billion proposed state budget, which seeks to address projected deficits by reducing or

restructuring several General Fund commitments before the governor leaves office at the end of the year.

Data from the 2024 California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH) show that Black Californians account for about 6% of the state's population but represent roughly 28% to 32% of the unhoused population statewide. Conducted by the University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, CASPEH is considered the largest representative study of homelessness in the United States since the 1990s.

The study concluded that the overrepresentation of Black Californians among the unhoused population is rooted in generations of anti-Black racism embedded in housing and economic policies.

Representatives from the California Budget and Policy Center say HHAP investments have delivered measurable results. According to the Sacramento-based nonprofit, early point-in-time count data show a 9% reduction in unsheltered homelessness in 2025, youth homelessness has declined 24% since 2019, and more than 90,000 Californians have secured permanent housing since 2023.

"But this progress hinges on sustained state

funding to continue upholding the solutions that have achieved these results," the Budget Center reported in February.

At the same time, scrutiny over the state's homelessness spending has intensified. In 2023, Republican lawmakers, including Sen. Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks), Sen. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa), and Assemblymember Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), requested audits examining California's homelessness expenditures.

A California State Auditor report released in April 2024 found that the state spent approximately \$24 billion on homelessness programs over five years without adequately tracking outcomes or measuring effectiveness.

"Despite an exorbitant amount of dollars spent, the state's homeless population is not slowing down," Niello said in a statement. "These audit results are a wake-up call for a shift toward solutions that prioritize self-sufficiency and cost effectiveness."

Newsom told CBM at the budget presentation that reduced HHAP allocation reflects the expiration of one-time federal COVID-era funding and a broader shift toward stricter accountability standards based on a performance-based model for local governments receiving homelessness funds.

Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed



By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

New Initiative Would End California Open "Top Two" Primary System

A proposed California ballot initiative would eliminate the state's open primary election system and restore partisan primaries for congressional and statewide offices, reopening a long-running debate over voter choice and political representation.

The measure, titled "Undo the Top Two," was submitted to state officials by political consultant Steve Maviglio, who is requesting a circulating title and summary for the proposal. If approved by voters, the initiative would reverse election reforms adopted in 2010 that created California's current "top two" primary structure.

Under the existing system, all voters can choose any candidate in a primary election regardless of party affiliation. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes advance to the general election, even if both belong to the same political party.

Supporters of the initiative argue the system has failed to achieve its original goals. In the proposal's findings section, backers said Californians were promised the open primary would reduce political division, limit the influence of special interests and encourage cooperation among elected officials.

"The experiment failed," the initiative states, arguing that political polarization has worsened in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C., while special interests continue to wield strong influence over elections and policymaking.

The proposal also argues that the current system limits voter choice by sometimes producing general elections featuring two candidates from the same political party. Supporters say that outcome can leave some voters without a candidate who reflects their political beliefs.

If enacted, the initiative would amend the California Constitution to remove language establishing the "top two" system. Political parties would once again be allowed to advance their highest-performing candidates from party primaries into the general election.

The effort comes as California prepares for another crowded statewide election cycle, including a highly competitive governor's race that has drawn dozens of candidates. Concerns that two Republicans could advance to the general election have renewed criticism of the current primary structure in the heavily Democratic state.

Critics of repealing the system have argued the open primary encourages broader participation and

produces more moderate candidates by allowing independents and crossover voters to participate in primary contests.

Maviglio previously served as communications director for former Gov. Gray Davis and managed the mayoral campaign of former Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson. The proposal must gather enough valid signatures before qualifying for a future statewide ballot.

What California Authorities Are Saying About the Hantavirus

California health officials say the public faces an extremely low risk from a recent Andes hantavirus outbreak linked to an international cruise ship, even as state and federal agencies continue monitoring exposed passengers.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that California residents were aboard the MV Hondius cruise ship, where an outbreak of Andes hantavirus was identified. One passenger has returned to California and is being monitored by local public health officials, while another remained aboard the ship as of the agency's May 8 update.

State officials said they are coordinating closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local health departments and international public health agencies as the situation develops.

"We understand that news of an unusual outbreak can be concerning," said Dr. Erica Pan, California's state public health officer and director of the California Department of Public Health. "At this time, local, state, national and global public health partners are working together to assess and care for people who may have been exposed and prevent spread of the virus."

Authorities emphasized that Andes hantavirus differs from more contagious respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19 and influenza.

According to CDPH, years of public health experience in South America have shown the virus rarely spreads between people and usually requires prolonged close contact with an infected individual.

Health officials said exposed passengers are undergoing daily symptom monitoring, including temperature checks and health assessments. As of May 8, officials reported there were no known ill passengers aboard the ship.

Hantaviruses are spread through contact with infected rodent saliva, urine or droppings and can lead to hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a rare but severe respiratory illness. Symptoms often begin with fever, headache, muscle aches and gastrointestinal problems before potentially progressing to life-threatening breathing complications.

According to CDPH, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome carries a fatality rate of roughly 30% to 40%, and there is currently no antiviral treatment. Medical experts say early supportive care is critical for survival.

California officials also said the state is supporting the national response through expanded laboratory testing. CDPH's Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory operates the nation's only validated public health PCR test capable of detecting multiple hantavirus strains, including the Andes virus connected to the cruise outbreak.

Authorities said they will continue monitoring the situation.

California State Library Releases Housing Construction Tracker

The California State Library has released an updated interactive Housing Construction Tracker designed to give policymakers a clearer picture of where new housing is being built across the state and how development patterns have changed over time.

The tool, developed by the California Research Bureau (CRB), compiles parcel-level data to map residential construction across legislative districts from 2001 through 2024. Officials say the updated version expands the state's ability to analyze housing trends that have long been difficult to track in a consistent, statewide format.

Housing affordability remains one of California's most persistent policy challenges, with lawmakers introducing more than 1,000 housing-related bills since 2019, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures' Housing and Homelessness Legislation Database. Despite repeated legislative efforts, construction has continued to lag behind demand in many parts of the state.

The CRB notes that economic research consistently shows increased housing supply helps reduce costs at a regional level. However, California's housing production has not kept pace with states such as Texas and Florida, which have continued to add more housing units in recent years.

According to the updated tracker, California saw stronger housing growth in the early 2000s before construction sharply declined during the Great Recession. While production gradually recovered in the following decade, it has largely flattened since around 2018.

The data also highlights clear geographic disparities in where housing is being built. Inland regions, including parts of the Inland Empire, Central Valley, and Sacramento suburbs, account for a large share of new development. Coastal areas such as Los Angeles and the Bay Area continue to show comparatively lower levels of construction.

The tracker further shows that even during periods of growth, housing production has been uneven across legislative districts, with some areas consistently building far more units than others. Researchers say these differences reflect long-standing economic, geographic and regulatory factors that influence development decisions across the state.

The updated database includes nearly 2 million recently built parcels, representing more than 2.3 million housing units and millions of bedrooms statewide. It also allows users to break down construction trends by district and other geographic categories, offering a more detailed view of how California's housing landscape has evolved over the past two decades.

State Library officials say the goal of the tool is to support evidence-based policymaking by giving lawmakers and researchers better access to data as they continue working to address California's housing shortage and affordability crisis.

Gov Newsom Deploys \$760 Million to Tackle and

Prevent Homelessness in 11 Regions

California is deploying \$760 million in homelessness funding to local governments and regional agencies across the state, with Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration saying the investment is aimed at expanding shelter, housing, and prevention services in all eligible regions.

The funding is being distributed through the state's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program, which supports coordinated regional responses to homelessness. Officials said 11 regions are receiving new allocations under the latest round, which continues a statewide effort to reduce unsheltered homelessness and expand long-term housing solutions.

According to the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the latest awards build on previous HHAP funding rounds that have collectively supported local strategies to move people off the streets and into housing. State officials said every eligible region has now received support under HHAP Round 6.

"We're pairing historic investments with real accountability and demanding results at every level of government," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in announcing the funding. "No one in California should be without a place to call home."

The administration said more than 100,000 Californians have transitioned from homelessness into permanent housing through HHAP-supported programs and related initiatives in recent years. Officials also reported a 9% decline in unsheltered homelessness statewide, which they described as the first notable drop in more than a decade.

HHAP is a multi-year grant program that provides funding to California counties, large cities, and Continuums of Care. The program supports a range of interventions, including emergency shelters, street outreach, rapid rehousing, rental assistance, and permanent supportive housing.

Officials said most participating regions are dedicating roughly 90% of their HHAP funds to permanent and interim housing solutions, reflecting a state push to prioritize long-term exits from homelessness over short-term interventions.

"The state continues to invest in local regions and partner with local governments to scale proven solutions that prevent and end homelessness," said Tomiquia Moss. She said the grants are helping expand access to housing and supportive services while strengthening local systems aimed at reducing homelessness.

The latest funding round includes a combined \$760 million in HHAP allocations, part of nearly \$5 billion in total program investments since its expansion.

State officials said recipients will be required to demonstrate measurable progress in reducing homelessness, with performance tracked through standardized state metrics. Funds must be fully spent by June 2029.

The announcement comes as California prepares for a seventh round of HHAP funding, which is expected to total \$500 million and expand accountability requirements tied to housing outcomes and local policy implementation.

Officials said the combined investments reflect a broader statewide strategy focused on increasing housing supply, strengthening behavioral health services, and accelerating efforts to move people out of encampments and into stable housing.

Local



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