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Volume 42 Number 6 | Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California | Thursday, October 29, 2026

Metro to Kick Off Vermont Bus Rapid Transit Project Ahead of 2028 Olympics

Metro Board Director and LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell at the launch. Photo by Marion Apio

Metro staff and community members in attendance at the launch event. Photo by Marion Apio

Students from the SEED School of Los Angeles County with the Metro CEO. Photo by Marion Apio

By Marion Apio
California Local News Fellow

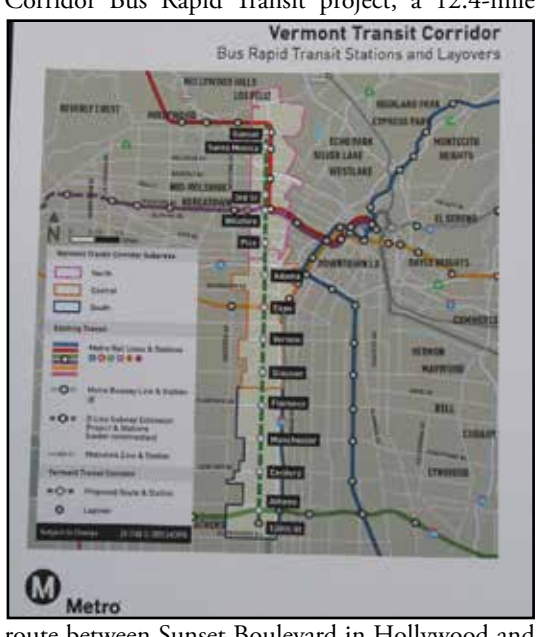
For 16-year-old Kalianna Paloma, an 11th-grade student at the SEED School of Los Angeles County, traveling by bus can mean spending extra time getting to a train station and reaching her destination. A planned bus rapid transit system along Vermont Avenue could make those trips easier for her and thousands of other riders.

"I encounter a lot, I guess like it takes a lot of time to go to the train station, and so, you know, the walking as well and the cost of it," Paloma said.

The student said she regularly uses buses and welcomed improvements intended to make public transportation more efficient for people across the city.

"It means a lot to me since we're helping out the community and making it more efficient for other people and individuals to travel around the city," she said.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials have begun construction on the $414 million Vermont Transit Corridor Bus Rapid Transit project, a 12.4-mile



route between Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood and 120th Street in South Los Angeles. Metro aims to have the project operating in time for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The corridor currently records about 38,000 daily boardings. Metro projects that figure will increase to 66,200 daily boardings by 2045.

The project will introduce 26 stations, dedicated bus lanes, traffic signal improvements and all-door boarding. Stations will include real-time arrival information, seating and shade, while street improvements will focus on lighting, landscaping and safer pedestrian crossings.

Metro estimates the improvements could reduce travel time along the full corridor by as much as 17 minutes, or 24%.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said the investment would improve daily life for residents who rely on public transportation to reach work, school, health care and other essential destinations.

"For so many Angelenos in this neighborhood, the Vermont bus isn't a choice; it's how life gets done," Bass said at the groundbreaking.

"This project is about more than faster buses. It's about giving people back time, connecting them to more opportunities, and making everyday life more affordable in South LA," she said.

Bass said the project would also support the local economy, with more than 1,000 jobs expected each year during construction. Metro estimates the overall project could support more than 4,800 jobs and generate nearly $100 million in tax revenue.

Metro Board Director and Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell said the project reflects years of work by transit officials, community organizations and residents to improve service along one of the county's busiest bus corridors.

The project includes dedicated lanes and signal improvements intended to help buses move through traffic, as well as all-door boarding to reduce time spent at stops. Real-time arrival information will also help passengers know when to expect their buses.

"Faster trips are what we all want," Mitchell said.

She credited local, state and federal partners with helping advance the project, including securing a $150 million federal grant. Mitchell also said community members and organizations helped shape the plans to reflect neighborhood needs.

Metro Director Jacqueline Dupont-Walker said she attended her first community meeting about the Vermont corridor 13 years ago. She described the groundbreaking as a milestone following years of advocacy for transit improvements connecting South Los Angeles and East Hollywood.

Dupont-Walker said residents had repeatedly attended meetings, town halls and surveys to share their priorities with Metro.

"Your dedication, feedback, and advocacy made it possible to design and to deliver a project that truly reflects what the community needs and deserves and wants," she said.

Metro Executive Officer for Community Relations Anthony Crump said the agency had engaged more than 25,000 people during the planning process, with the most intensive community outreach taking place around 2021. Metro's broader outreach efforts have included partnerships with more than 40 community-based organizations and dozens of community events.

Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said community feedback led to changes in the project's design, including wider crosswalks and stations that extend toward the street to make stops easier to reach. Residents, including women traveling with children, had raised concerns about crossing safely near turning vehicles.

Feedback also led Metro to include more shade, shelter and other safety features, Wiggins said.

The construction will take place within the existing street corridor, according to Patrick Chandler, a Metro media relations representative. The project does not require the acquisition of homes or private property, although temporary lane closures and some temporary construction arrangements may be necessary.

"When we think of BRT, we're thinking of light rail on wheels," Chandler said. "In essence, we're thinking about the speed and reliability of a light rail train. However, it's running with the efficiency of a bus on city streets."

Chandler said construction would involve installing bus lanes, reconfiguring and restriping some intersections, and building the stations and other amenities. Metro's construction relations team will communicate with residents and businesses about disruptions, he said.

Mayor Bass and the Metro team officially launch the project in Vermont. Photo by Marion Apio

The corridor serves neighborhoods and destinations including the University of Southern California, Los Angeles City College, Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Exposition Park. It also connects with Metro's B and D rail lines in Hollywood and the E and C lines farther south, providing links to the wider transit network.

The route will also serve destinations associated with the 2028 Games, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the California Science Center and the future Lucas Museum of Narrative Art.

For the SEED School of Los Angeles County, located near Vermont Avenue and Manchester Boulevard, improvements could affect students who use the bus to travel to and from school.

"Our kids, our families and students use the bus," said Cindy Vides, the school's senior director of admissions and external affairs. She said the planned service improvements could mean shorter waits for the school's approximately 400 students who travel along the corridor.

The tuition-free public boarding school opened at its current location in August 2022 and serves students from ninth grade through college graduation, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The project also represents an employment opportunity for workers in the region. Eddie Esquivel Alvarez, representing the Los Angeles and Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, said the construction would create opportunities for local workers, veterans and apprentices.

"This project means faster, more reliable trips to work, school, and care, passing through some of the city's more densely populated and transit-dependent neighborhoods," Alvarez said.

He said the project's labor agreement would prioritize skilled and trained workers, including local apprentices, and argued that construction jobs could benefit nearby businesses as workers spend their earnings in the community.

Metro officials acknowledged that construction could disrupt travel and business along Vermont Avenue, but said they would work with residents and businesses to reduce those effects.

Wiggins said the agency was working toward the 2028 Games deadline, while emphasizing the importance of the corridor beyond the event.

For Paloma and other regular bus riders, the project's success will ultimately depend on whether the new service makes everyday journeys safer, more reliable and less time-consuming.

Proposition 40: What Californian's Billionaire Tax Would Do

By Observer Editorial Desk

California voters will decide Nov. 3 whether to impose a one-time wealth tax on the state's billionaires, a proposal that has generated a heated debate over health care funding, taxation and the state's economic future.

Proposition 40 would establish a tax equal to 5% of the covered net wealth of qualifying California billionaires. The measure generally applies to individuals who were California residents on Jan. 1, 2026, and whose net worth exceeded $1 billion.

Unlike the state's income tax, which applies to annual earnings, the proposed tax would be based on wealth, including certain investments, business interests and other valuable assets. Real estate and certain retirement accounts would generally be excluded.

Where would the money go?

Under the measure, 90% of the revenue would be designated for health care services. The remaining 10% would support education, food assistance and administration of the tax.

California's Legislative Analyst's Office estimates the proposal could raise tens of billions of dollars in temporary state revenue over several years. However, analysts caution that the final amount is uncertain because asset values can change and wealthy taxpayers may take steps to reduce their tax liability.

The analysis also projects a possible ongoing reduction of less than $1 billion annually in state income tax revenue if some wealthy residents relocate or change their financial arrangements.

Supporters and opponents disagree

Supporters argue that California's wealthiest residents should contribute more to public health care at a time when the state faces mounting costs and pressure on government-funded services.

Opponents warn that the measure could encourage wealthy taxpayers and businesses to leave California, reducing future tax collections and creating economic uncertainty.

They also question whether the temporary revenue would provide a lasting solution to the state's health care funding needs.

Another complication involves Propositions 41 and 42, which are also on the ballot. State analysts say those measures could conflict with Proposition 40, potentially preventing it from taking effect depending on the election results and subsequent court decisions.

A "yes" vote supports establishing the one-time wealth tax. A "no" vote rejects the proposal.

Voters can review the complete nonpartisan analysis in California's official voter information guide at voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

Election Day Nears: What Los Angeles County Voters Need to Know

By Observer Editorial Desk

With the Nov. 3 general election less than a week away, Los Angeles County voters are being encouraged to make their voting plans, return mail ballots early and take advantage of expanded in-person voting opportunities throughout the county.

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk has made more than 400 secure ballot drop boxes available, while Vote Centers across the county are opening in phases ahead of Election Day.

Early Voting Underway

Early in-person voting began Saturday, Oct. 24, at select Vote Centers. Additional locations will open Saturday, Oct. 31, giving residents more opportunities to cast their ballots before Election Day.

Vote Centers are open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Nov. 2. On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, voting hours will extend from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Unlike traditional neighborhood polling places, Los Angeles County Vote Centers allow registered county voters to cast their ballots at any participating location, regardless of where they live within the county.

Returning Mail Ballots

All active registered California voters were mailed ballots for the general election.

Completed ballots may be returned through the mail, deposited in an official ballot drop box or delivered to a Vote Center.

Ballots returned in person must be received by 8 p.m. Nov. 3. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by county election officials no later than Nov. 10.

Voters should sign and date their ballot return envelopes before submitting them.

Missed the Registration Deadline?

Although California's regular voter registration deadline passed Oct. 19, eligible residents can still register and vote through conditional voter registration, commonly called same-day registration.

The service is available at Los Angeles County Vote Centers through Election Day. Election officials will verify eligibility before counting conditional ballots.

Residents who did not receive a ballot or need a replacement can also request assistance at a Vote Center.

Voters can track their ballots through California's free "Where's My Ballot?" service at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov.

For official voting locations, ballot drop boxes and election assistance, residents can visit LAVOTE.GOV or call (800) 815-2666.

With Election Day approaching, election officials encourage voters to verify their voting locations and avoid waiting until the final hours to cast their ballots.

Inglewood Mayor Defends Billboard Revenue as Measure BB Heads to Nov. 3 Election

By Marion Apio
California Local News Fellow

Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts Jr. defended the city's commercial billboard program at a District 4 town hall meeting held Sept. 23, arguing that a ballot measure targeting advertising on public property could threaten millions of dollars in municipal revenue.

Measure BB, on the Nov. 3 ballot, would change the city's authority to permit advertising on public rights-of-way and certain available properties. Butts urged residents to consider the financial implications of restricting the program, which he said generates revenue without requiring the city to raise taxes.

"We have the right as a people to have self-determination," Butts said.

He told residents that the city entered into an agreement with a media company in 2014 to install large digital billboards on city-owned land. According to Butts, the company paid the construction costs, while the city received a share of the advertising revenue.

The mayor said the agreements gave the city a way to generate income from property it already owned, including during financially difficult years.

"Those big digital boards you see in Inglewood were built on city land, " Butts said.

The city later negotiated a separate arrangement for traffic-information kiosks along Prairie Avenue, Century Boulevard and Manchester Boulevard. Butts said the kiosks display traffic information and commercial advertising, generating additional revenue.

"We make money while we sleep," he said. "That's what smart people do. They make — they have performing assets."

Butts cited approximately $8 million in annual billboard revenue during the meeting. Published reporting on city budget records has placed the revenue at several million dollars annually, with amounts varying by fiscal year and calculation method.

The mayor said the money helps support senior mobility services, pre-kindergarten education and a $500 property-tax rebate previously provided to eligible homeowners. He also cited a program at the city's senior center that he described as a "blue zone."

"That $8 million a year ... pays for a blue zone in our senior center," Butts said.

City Treasurer Angela Allen also told residents that municipal revenue supports programs for seniors, including a utility-tax reimbursement program for residents age 62 and older.

The budget records reviewed for this report did not establish whether billboard receipts are specifically earmarked for those programs or whether the services are funded through the city's broader General Fund.

Butts also discussed legal disputes involving the city's billboard agreements. In 2025, venue-related companies challenged the city's agreement with billboard operator WOW Media in Los Angeles Superior Court. The cases included Pincay Re, LLC, et al. v. City of Inglewood, et al., case No. 25STCP02561, and Forum Entertainment, LLC, et al. v. City of Inglewood, et al., case No. 25STCP02940.

Published reporting on a June 2026 ruling said the court rejected several challenges to the billboard agreement, including claims concerning the public right-of-way and competitive bidding. The ruling did not resolve every claim related to alleged breaches of development agreements. Subsequent appellate proceedings were not independently verified in the records reviewed.

Butts alleged that opponents of his administration backed Measure BB after losing legal challenges to the city's advertising arrangements.

"When they lost the court case, they funded an initiative called Measure BB," Butts said. "So they would decide for us that these billboards that bring us $8 million a year are bright."

Butts also accused his political opponents of spending heavily to remove him from office, alleging that an independent expenditure account had been established with hundreds of thousands

of dollars. His remarks did not establish the precise amount spent or identify all contributors.

The mayor urged residents to support Measure AT, a separate ballot measure that would change how the city collects admissions taxes from major entertainment venues. Under the existing arrangement, qualifying venues pay a 10% admissions tax subject to an annual revenue cap.

Measure AT would remove the cap for venues with at least 20,000 seats and introduce a 2.5% admissions tax for venues with at least 10,000 but fewer than 20,000 seats. NBC Los Angeles reported that a city impact report dated July 22, 2026, estimated the changes could generate an additional $47 million to $50 million annually. The projected revenue would go to the General Fund, although actual collections would depend on ticket sales, event activity and implementation of the measure.

Butts argued that removing the admissions-tax cap would give the city greater financial flexibility, while restricting billboard advertising could reduce another source of municipal revenue.

"This moment in our evolution as a city is going to define what we are for our young generation," Butts said. "It's going to define whether we wait for handouts or whether we build for ourselves."

Inglewood voters will decide the fate of Measure BB and Measure AT on Nov. 3.

World & Nation

Kickstarter CEO Everette Taylor Shares Tips on Creating and Growing a Business

By BlackPress
USA Newswire

WASHINGTON (HUNS) — "The future belongs to creators who are bold," Everette Taylor, CEO of crowdfunding platform Kickstarter, told students at Howard University during a recent visit.As Taylor discussed his journey, he tested the boldness of students by inviting them to share their ideas during an impromptu pitch session at the Cathy Hughes School of Communications' new speaker series in the Browsing Room of Founders Library. The inaugural speaker then shocked one group of students by pledging to invest in their thesis film, paying forward the opportunities that have lifted him as he struggled to pursue his dreams. Taylor grew up in a low-income neighborhood in Richmond, Virginia, where he frequently encountered gang violence and drug dealing amid periods of homelessness.Not feeling as if he conformed to conventional ideas of success, he eventually found inspiration in Jay-Z who balanced being an artist and an entrepreneur. Similarly, Taylor carved his own route, launching and growing various businesses.He gained enough recognition to land on the 2018 Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in marketing and advertising. In 2022, Forbes also named him as one of the top 50 most entrepreneurial CMOs when he was chief marketing officer of Artsy, an online art gallery and marketplace. That same year he took over Kickstarter, and the company reported a year-over-year revenue increase of 50% in the first quarter of 2026.Taylor encouraged the audience through his story, but he also gave practical advice to help students who share his zeal to create and grow their business.He explained that his mentor, Artsy CEO Mike Steib, helped him make the transition from being a CMO to becoming CEO at Kickstarter."These opportunities I don't take for granted," Taylor said, adding that Steib was "the first leader I had to take me under his wing."When he began his position at Kickstarter, Taylor said, "I had zero imposter syndrome, because I felt like I was ready for it, and it was because this person invested in me over the past few years.""A lot of my journey was me just hustling and being bold enough to ask for what I want, but I also need people to give me an opportunity."This idea of giving people opportunity impacts his business philosophy, as Taylor estimates that the number of African American employees grew exponentially since he's been in leadership."Kickstarter was I think less than 2% Black, and at our peak I had gotten it to 20-something percent Black," Taylor said.Even then, Taylor also saw a need for representing other perspectives. "We still serve people globally, so we need people from different countries and cultures," he said. "If you're building a global company, it's important to build a diverse base of people.""I always want to impact more lives, and that always leads to more results."

Kickstarter CEO Everette Taylor discusses entrepreneurship with Dean Kimberly Moffitt as the inaugural speaker of a new speaker series in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications. (Photo: Solomon Goins/HUNews Service.com) — Solomon Goins/HUNews Service.com)

Everette Taylor, CEO of Kickstarter

With the success Taylor had after becoming CEO of Kickstarter, he also found a need to prioritize his health."This is the first year that I've started the year with zero business goals," he said. "For the first time, my goals have been centered around my health."He cites the illness of a friend who appeared to be healthy. Seeing his friend, who is also a successful entrepreneur, endure illness pushed him to prioritize his health."Business, I can do that in my sleep, but for me right now I'm so much more focused on setting goals for myself, and I know that's going to impact the work that I do by feeling healthier and being a better version of myself."Samantha Housen, a sophomore public relations major and interior design minor from Harlem, attended the event to gain knowledge to grow her non-profit and for-profit businesses."I'm here because I want to explore more of the details of entrepreneurship from an actual professional," Housen said, and to "see how his mindset could help me in my entrepreneurship.""My biggest takeaway is that I'm bold, and it's OK to be bold," she said. "I very much have the authority to do whatever I seek to do."Kimberly Moffitt, Ph.D., dean of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications and host of the event, said she was excited about the speaker series."It's because of students," Moffitt said. "They felt like they weren't hearing enough from people who are already post-graduation and successful. They wanted to hear those voices. So, this is an opportunity for me to bring folks to campus so they could reach out, talk and interact with folks that they aspire to be like or will be inspired by."Moffitt was excited for students to see someone who looked like them and carried themselves authentically in a position of high acclaim."He is showing you a different path, and letting you know that it's OK to be who you are and show up in that space and not have to apologize," Moffitt said of Taylor.Moffitt also wants to encourage students to make the most of the speaker series. She gives details on upcoming speakers and the importance of hearing these people tell their stories."Those of you who want to be in TV and film, those jobs are different now," she said. "You have to hustle in a different way.""I need our students to think about entrepreneurship in all that they do," Moffitt added. "I want students to leave with that so that they have it in their back pocket should they need to draw on it."After the event. Taylor explained why boldness is essential to his success at Kickstarter."It's for the grind and the ambition — not settling for status quo and mediocrity, and really going for it," he said. "I always want to impact more lives, and that always leads to more results."Solomon Goins is a reporter for HUNewsService.com.Based on reporting by Howard University News Service.

Kickstarter CEO Everette Taylor gives advice to a student at Howard University. (Photo: Solomon Goins/HUNewsService.com)

Columbus' Oldest Businesses Still Open:

10 That Have Lasted 75+ Years

By Mark G
Black Press USA Wire

The historic Springer Opera House in downtown Columbus, Georgia, opened in 1871 and stands as one of the city's oldest surviving cultural institutions.

Some Columbus businesses have been around longer than the automobiles, shopping centers and neighborhoods that now surround them. A handful date back to the 1800s, when cotton mills powered the local economy and the Chattahoochee River carried goods between communities. Others survived the Great Depression, two world wars, economic downturns and decades of changing consumer habits.

While hundreds of businesses have opened and closed across Columbus over the generations, these 10 have histories stretching back at least 75 years. Some remain family-owned, while others have survived mergers, ownership changes or major transformations. Together, their histories tell the story of how Columbus grew from a riverfront trading town into a regional center for banking, manufacturing, commerce and culture.

This list includes businesses, commercial institutions and their surviving successors with documented Columbus roots before 1951. It is not a definitive ranking of every surviving business, and several entries have changed ownership, names or operating models over time.

1. Columbus Ledger-Enquirer — 1828 (198 Years)

One of Columbus's oldest surviving commercial institutions is its longtime newspaper, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. Its history began in 1828 with the founding of the Columbus Enquirer, the same year Columbus was established. The Columbus Ledger followed in 1886, and the two newspapers eventually became a single publication in 1988.

Over nearly two centuries, the newspaper has documented wars, elections, industrial expansion, economic downturns and major changes throughout the Chattahoochee Valley. Its ownership changed again in July 2026, when the Georgia Trust for Local News purchased the Ledger-Enquirer from McClatchy. The newspaper continues operating, although the modern publication is the product of mergers and transformations rather than an unchanged business established in 1828.

2. Willcox-Lumpkin Co. — 1848 (178 Years)

Insurance agency Willcox-Lumpkin traces its history to 1848, making it one of Columbus's oldest documented commercial enterprises. Historical city directories identify the business as an insurance agency that protected homes, businesses and property long before automobiles became common. The company remained associated with generations of the Willcox and Lumpkin families.

Its history is supported by advertisements appearing in Columbus directories more than a century ago. Georgia Secretary of State records currently list Willcox-Lumpkin Co. as active and in compliance, with its corporate registration dating to December 1923. That distinction matters because the business's claimed operating history is considerably older than its present corporate registration.

3. Springer Opera House — 1871 (155 Years)

The Springer Opera House opened in 1871 and became one of the city's most important entertainment destinations. Built by businessman Francis Joseph Springer, the theater attracted nationally recognized performers and helped establish Columbus as a cultural center. Its ornate Victorian architecture remains one of downtown's most recognizable landmarks.

The Springer nearly disappeared during the 1960s after declining attendance and years of deterioration. Preservationists rescued the building, and theatrical performances returned in 1965. Although it has not operated continuously in the same form, the Springer remains an active performing arts institution and an example of how historic properties can find new economic life.

4. Schomburg's Jewelers — 1872 (154 Years)

Few Columbus retailers can claim a family history as long as Schomburg's Jewelers. Carl Frederick Schomburg established the jewelry business in 1872 after working as a clockmaker, and the company gradually expanded into watches, jewelry and other luxury goods. Five generations of the family have been associated with the business.

Today, Schomburg's operates on Rollins Way and identifies itself as Georgia's oldest fifth-generation jeweler. Its longevity reflects a business model built around specialized craftsmanship, customer relationships and family continuity. While many traditional jewelry stores have disappeared or become part of national chains, Schomburg's has maintained a recognizable local identity.

5. Goldens' Foundry & Machine Co. — 1882 (144 Years)

Two brothers, Theodore and J. Poitevent Golden, established Goldens' Foundry & Machine Co. in 1882. The company began as a small foundry and machine shop during an era when Columbus was expanding rapidly as a manufacturing center. Its products helped supply the machinery and industrial equipment needed by businesses throughout the region.

More than 140 years later, the business remains associated with descendants of its founders. Goldens' continues manufacturing industrial castings while also developing consumer products through its Goldens' Cast Iron brand. Its survival is especially significant because many of the textile mills and industrial operations that helped create its original market have long since closed.

6. W.C. Bradley Co. — 1885 (141 Years)

The W.C. Bradley Co. traces its origins to 1885, when William Clark Bradley entered the cotton business in Columbus. Over time, his growing enterprise expanded into groceries, fertilizer, transportation, manufacturing and financial services. The company eventually became one of the most influential business organizations in the Chattahoochee Valley.

Its business interests helped shape the development of modern Columbus, including the city's banking and manufacturing sectors. The company also became closely associated with Char-Broil, the nationally recognized outdoor cooking brand. Today, W.C. Bradley Co. maintains its corporate headquarters near the Chattahoochee River, continuing a business legacy that began when cotton dominated the regional economy.

7. Synovus Banking Legacy — 1888 (138 Years)

The banking institution that became Synovus began in 1888 with the establishment of two Columbus banks. According to company history, the idea developed partly from the need to provide textile workers with a safe place to keep their earnings. Those early banking operations eventually evolved into Columbus Bank and Trust and later Synovus Financial Corporation.

A major change occurred in January 2026 when Synovus merged with Pinnacle Financial Partners, ending its existence as an independent corporation. The combined organization continues serving Columbus customers under the Synovus name during the transition to Pinnacle branding, which is scheduled for 2027. Pinnacle also announced plans in June to expand its downtown Columbus workspace, reinforcing the city's continued importance to the banking operation.

8. Dinglewood Pharmacy — 1918 (108 Years)

Dinglewood Pharmacy opened on November 13, 1918, and became one of Columbus's most recognizable neighborhood businesses. While generations of customers have visited for prescriptions and pharmacy services, the business is equally famous for its traditional lunch counter. Its signature scrambled dog has become closely associated with Columbus food culture.

The pharmacy celebrated its centennial in 2018, an achievement relatively few independent neighborhood businesses reach. Its ability to combine traditional pharmacy services with a popular local dining experience has helped preserve its reputation across generations. Dinglewood remains an especially visible example of a business whose appeal extends well beyond the original service it was established to provide.

9. Striffler-Hamby Mortuary — 1923 (103 Years)

Striffler-Hamby Mortuary traces its business history to 1923, when David Abraham Striffler opened his own funeral establishment in downtown Columbus. Striffler had entered the local funeral industry in 1908 before eventually establishing an independent operation. In 1930, he moved the business into a building constructed specifically for funeral services.

The mortuary became an established name as generations of Columbus families turned to it for funeral arrangements. Today, the business operates as part of the Dignity Memorial network, showing how a longstanding local institution can continue under different corporate ownership. Its history also offers a look at how funeral services evolved from small undertaking establishments into modern funeral homes.

10. WRCG Radio, Originally WRBL — 1928 (98 Years)

Columbus entered the broadcasting era on May 10, 1928, when WRBL began transmitting radio programs to local listeners. The station was established through the efforts of early radio pioneer Bill Lewis and became the city's first radio broadcasting operation. Its original programming helped bring news, entertainment and live events into Columbus homes.

The station eventually changed ownership, frequencies and call letters, becoming WRCG in 1977. Historical research by Columbus State University and Historic Columbus confirms the connection between the original WRBL radio operation and its later identity. Today, WRCG represents a surviving broadcasting legacy that predates television's arrival in Columbus by approximately 25 years.

What These Businesses Reveal About Columbus

The survival of these institutions reflects the major industries that shaped Columbus over nearly two centuries. Banking, manufacturing, retail, insurance, entertainment and communications all played important roles in the city's economic development. Several businesses adapted to changing markets, while others survived by maintaining relationships with generations of local customers.

Their histories also demonstrate that longevity does not necessarily mean remaining unchanged. Some businesses were acquired by larger corporations, others moved into new industries, and several preserved their names despite major changes in ownership. For Columbus residents, these institutions provide a tangible connection to the city's past while continuing to influence its economic and cultural identity.

Los Angeles News Observer

Adjudicated a Newspaper of General Circulation on July 2, 1991, Los Angeles Superior Court Decree, Case No. BS007262, Government Code 6023.

Bulk Mailing Permit 724 Bakersfield, CA 93385

Published every Thursday by The Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California, Inc.

Member: National Newspaper Publishers Assc. Associated Press, Better Business Bureau, GLAAACC

President: Ellen Coley
CEO: Jon Coley
Publisher/ Editor: James Luckey Jr.
Operations Manager: James Luckey
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Bakersfield News Observer,
Los Angeles News Observer,
The Valley's News Observer

Los Angeles News Observer 6060 Center Drive Floor 10, Los Angeles, CA 90045 Mailing Address: PO Box 2341, Bakersfield, Ca. 93303 Phone (661) 324-9466 FAX (661) 324-9472
General Info: observernews@gmail.com
Advertising: observeradvertising@gmail.com
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By BlackPress
USA Newswire By Special to The Post

The Council for Global Ancestral Reverence (C4GAR), a group of elders who practice African traditional spirituality, will lead a three-day gathering of prayer and discussion from Oct. 31-Nov. 2.Called 'Ancestral Souls Rising,' the council members and 21 priests will lead the prayers from many parts of the African diaspora: Africa, Portugal, and across the U.S. from Maryland to the Bay Area.Now in its seventh year, the annual ritual began during the 2020 pandemic when hundreds of thousands of people died alone and were buried in mass graves without rites and rituals according to loved ones' traditions.This prayer event was and is intended to give peace to the departed and comfort for the living who still mourn. Each year, we gather names of new ancestors from living elders to elevate them into the "Great Hall of the Titans."In ensuing years, C4GAR added themes to the prayer gathering that referenced current events. In 2024, before the consequential presidential election, C4GAR called on people to vote, invoking the memory of Civil Rights Movement heroes and heroines like John Lewis, who urged "Good Trouble," and Fannie Lou Hamer, who famously declared that she was "sick and tired of being sick and tired."The day of global Prayer on Oct. 31 will be followed by a two-day conversation inspired by "The Blueprint," an Afro-Beat song by UyiosaEl, to write our new blueprint that supports solidarity and action in the Black community. "Our elders have, for many generations, known the power of prayer, ritual and breath," the council said in a statement.It was and is their intention, then, to use the cultural wisdom, the gift of prayer "and the most sacred thing we have, our breath, to send energy into the world that invokes and honors our ancestors," the council statement continued."Doing this creates a vibration that protects us and employs their ancient wisdom for the well-being of our communities," the elders said.The councilmembers, all over the age of 60, recognize that what is now history for so many was once their lived experience. And that history, those joys and sorrows, are now in their bodies.To them, the uttered prayer and the sacred breath are oaths to an unfolding future that people can still shape.The council members are Dr. Iyabeji Cathy Royal, Iyalocha Jennifer Dillard, Manbo Charlene Desir (Florida), Nana Sula Spirit (Louisiana), Baba Obafemi Feyemi, Ohen Nedra T. Williams, and Iyalocha Wanda Ravernell-Stewart Emeritus (Oakland).This year, they also encourage everyone within their reach to VOTE because it is not only a secular and political act, but a sacred one. Remember, the ancestors were denied that right and died for it.

Oakland native Nedra Williams writes sacred symbols on the ground in San Leandro. Courtesy photo.

Entertainment

Jermaine Jackson Wins Court Ruling and is Not Required to Pay $6.5M for Abuse Allegations

he officially changed his name to "Jermaine LaJuane Jacksun" in 2013.

Jermaine Jackson, one of the members of the Jackson 5, has won a court ruling that overturned a $6.5 million default judgment in a Los Angeles sexual assault lawsuit tied to a 1988 allegation. The judge ruled he was not properly notified, which invalidated the earlier decision.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elaine W. Mandel issued the ruling on June 30. She reviewed filings from both sides and decided to void the judgment that had previously gone in favor of the plaintiff.

According to People, the default judgment was entered after Jackson did not respond to the lawsuit within the required deadlines. That earlier ruling allowed the court to side with the plaintiff and assign damages.

Jackson, the older brother of Michael Jackson, argued that he was incorrectly identified in the case. He said legal documents used the name "Jermaine Jackson" even though he officially changed his name to "Jermaine LaJuane Jacksun" in 2013.

He also told the court he was living in Bahrain when attempts were made to serve him legal papers. According to his account, notices were sent to his mother's home in Encino, California, and he never saw them. He also said a summons published in the Los Angeles Times did not reach him.

The plaintiff's legal team argued that Jackson had been properly served and simply failed to respond. They maintained that the case should have moved forward based on that service.

In her ruling, Judge Mandel said the combination of an incorrect legal name and service issues overseas made the default judgment invalid. She noted that while serving someone abroad can be difficult, the errors in how Jackson was identified and notified could not be ignored.

The lawsuit was filed in December 2023 by Rita Butler Barrett. She accused Jackson of sexually assaulting her in 1988 after he allegedly entered her home without permission. She also claimed the incident caused lasting emotional and financial harm.

Barrett further alleged she reported the incident to Motown founder Berry Gordy the next day, but said it was covered up to protect Jackson's career. Those claims remain part of the ongoing case.

Jackson's attorney, Bret Lewis, said his client denies all allegations. He added that the defense team plans to continue fighting the case in court.

Jermaine Jackson or is it Jermaine LaJuan Jacksun?

Independent Black Film "Jack's Story" Delivers a Timeless Message About the Future of Our Youth

"One bad decision can change your life." That powerful message is at the heart of Jack's Story, a thought-provoking new film that explores the pressures facing today's youth and the life-changing consequences that can come from a single choice. Through Jack's journey, the film tackles an issue families and communities face every day: young people navigating peer pressure, difficult circumstances, and critical moments when choosing what is right may not always be what is easy.

More than a film, Jack's Story is a conversation starter, challenging young people to think beyond the moment and understand that the decisions they make today can shape their tomorrow.

Following its premiere, Jack's Story will be available on Patreon beginning on 15 November 2026. https://www.patreon.com/c/MIGKontentHouse

With its timely message of accountability, decision-making, family, and hope, Jack's Story seeks not only to entertain audiences, but to inspire meaningful conversations among youth, parents, educators, mentors, and communities. One choice. One moment. One life that can be changed forever.

Snoop Dogg's 55th Birthday Party Had One VIP Guest That Stole the Whole Show

Snoop Dogg turned 55 this morning, and the birthday footage is everything you didn't know you needed. The rapper, born Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., celebrated his birthday from his couch with a very specific VIP guest: his French bulldog, Baby Boy Broadus.

He shared the video on social media, and we can see Snoop sitting comfortably, holding Baby Boy on his lap when someone walks in carrying a birthday cake. They lean in and blow out the candles together. It's as wholesome as it sounds.

The famous rapper has always loved dogs. He has owned several French bulldogs over the years, including two named Juelz and Frank.

Baby Boy Broadus is his current top dog. He isn't just any dog. Broadus has his own Instagram page, a strong following, and kind of unbothered confidence you would expect from someone raised in the Dogg household.

On Instagram, fans quickly flooded the comments. "Baby Boy Broadus is huge now," one person wrote. Another kept it simple: "Happy Birthday Doggy, bow wow."

Celebrity birthday celebrations often come with decorations, big parties and plenty of attention. Sometimes, the moment people remember is the one that feels most familiar and relatable.

For dog parents, that means having a furry baby nearby, whether they're opening presents, eating dinner or simply settling onto the sofa after a long day.

Snoop didn't organize a massive club party. Instead, he kept it simple—just a man, his dog and a cake. You could argue that the iconic rapper has done every possible version of a birthday celebration throughout his long, storied career. At this point, the flex is simplicity. Baby Boy seems to agree, sitting on Snoop's lap with the relaxed posture of a dog who has never questioned his place in the family hierarchy.

Frenchies, the Ultimate Couch Companions

French bulldogs were practically designed for this scenario. They're compact, affectionate, and their idea of a perfect evening involves being as close to their person as physically possible. They're also known for being expressive without being hyperactive, which is probably why Baby Boy looked completely at ease being held up next to a lit birthday cake.

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Features

The Black Church Writes AI's Next Chapter

By BlackPress
USA Newswire

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

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

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

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

I write my sermons by hand, through prayer and study. When I finish a draft, I ask ChatGPT this question: "Where might this sermon become unclear or difficult to follow for someone early in their walk of faith?" It shows me gaps in my preparation, like where I incorrectly assumed everyone would know the context of who the Pharisees were. Then, change comes from my own pen, not the robot. The tool helps me reach the person in the back pew while the message still comes from me.

Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA

If I could have my wish, our whole community would take a similar posture. We must use these tools, understand them, and most importantly be present to help shape them if we want to be included in the coming change.

I implore my fellow faith leaders to use these tools. Start now and use them with wisdom. We count on each and every one of you to make sure our communities help write the next chapter of this story. This rapid change is not as unfamiliar as it may sound. My first understanding of AI came from using a calculator for the first time in grade school. We did not call it AI, but it was a tool that helped me work through mathematical equations hours more efficiently.

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

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

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

Is Creativity a Superpower in Early Education?

By Karen D'Souza
EdSource BlackPressUSA

Singing the ABC song. Learning the days of the week from a nursery rhyme. Making a finger-painted collage of little handprints.

Arts education has always been center stage in early education because little children are naturally creative, filled with wonder and the burning desire to express themselves. Arts and crafts not only help nurture a child's natural imagination, they also boost small motor skills, sharpen hand-eye coordination and feed the insatiable need to play.

"Children don't just play, they learn fundamental skills through play," said Daniel Mendoza, a California visual artist and specialist in early childhood education art practices. "Children are in a creative mindset all the time."

While this may well be as true for teenagers as it is for toddlers, there is far more time and space allotted for playfulness in the early grades, when the crucial role of play in particular and creativity in general has long been a matter of common sense.

"Really, I'm just a common-sense professor, and somehow it became rogue," said Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, a professor of psychology at Temple University and an expert in the key role of play in learning. "What if we taught children the way we know the brain learns?"

Bringing joy back into the classroom is also what motivates Cindy Hoisington, an early childhood expert who specializes in reaching out to children from historically marginalized communities at the Education Development Center (EDC), a national education nonprofit.

"This is not anything new, knowing that play is so critical to children, whether it's dramatic play, building play, creative arts play or physical play," said Hoisington, a STEM expert who taught preschool for decades. "But as soon as they hit kindergarten and first grade, there's this dichotomy that sets in. Play is something you get to do after you do the learning when, in fact, we know that play is an incredible vehicle for learning."Play, some experts suggest, may be the superpower of the young. A growing body of research suggests that play may even be a way to help close achievement gaps. One report, analyzing 26 studies from 18 countries, found that in communities from Rwanda to Ethiopia, children got higher learning boosts in literacy, motor skills and social-emotional development when attending child care centers that use a mix of instruction and free play as opposed to those focused solely on academics.

"Children are so naturally, intuitively ready with their curiosity, their motivation to explore the world and everything in it, to the point where that's why the twos are so terrible, because you're constantly chasing after them," said Hoisington, who helps evaluate digital media for PBS. "Science, for instance, tends to have a bad rap as this dry body of knowledge that we have to learn, but really it's a process of exploration that is very much integral with play."

Tapping into that spirit of discovery with hands-on experiences is often best, experts say. Curiosity burns brightest in the early years, so letting kids loose to investigate the world is part of building a rich, play-based learning environment.

"Where young children are free to investigate by observing, touching and acting on the objects in their world," said Deborah Stipek, an expert in early childhood at Stanford University. "This is how they learn about the world — for example, that some objects float and some sink. Through their own experimentation and observation, they may even arrive at hypotheses about the qualities that differentiate the two."

From "The Wheels on the Bus" to "Baby Shark," kiddos love to sing and love to learn, so why not teach through music? Singing the "Old MacDonald had a Farm" song can be educational, experts say, as well as a ritual for community building. Children can take turns deciding on which animal to pick, which builds vocabulary as well as sharing skills.

"Young children learn best by doing," said Stipek. "Counting objects is better than counting dots on a worksheet because they can move the objects to help them keep track of how many they have counted. Worksheets are not all bad. They can provide opportunities to practice and consolidate skills. But children don't develop new skills doing worksheets, and they are typically not nearly as engaging and fun."

Tracing the alphabet in shaving cream or making tin-foil sculptures may seem like basic exercises, but they often teach sophisticated concepts. Playing make-believe games can teach numerous skills at once. Pretend restaurants need someone to write a menu, calculate a bill and greet diners, fostering literacy, numeracy and special-emotional learning all in one game, Hoisington notes.

Songs are a clever way to remember stuff because they make memorization easy and fun for little ones. Melodies and rhymes make the most of our limited working memory to help children embed basic facts into their long-term memory, bolstering depth of cognition.

"I still sing the ABC song in my head sometimes, if I want to know which letter comes before which letter," admits Hoisington.

What's often missed in the discussion of the role of play is that older children also need time for creativity and free play, as well as the arts. While there is much talk about the need to engage students, there is little focus on low-hanging fruit like increasing time for arts, sports and recess. Putting too much emphasis on academic skills in isolation undercuts the love of learning, some warn.

"Kids try to buck it, but certainly by first grade we've started to ruin them," said Hirsh-Pasek. "We pound the curiosity right out of kids."

Mendoza firmly believes teachers should be guides to adventure instead of taskmasters.

"You don't have to be a dictator," as he puts it, "you can be a Sherpa."

So, why doesn't the role of play get more respect in education? Why do we emphasize test scores over deep learning?

"We got to this place because people are scared," said Hirsh-Pasek. "They're feeling like they're losing control, and they want to make sure their kid is ahead. We push it younger and younger and younger, and as we do that, we're creating a situation where our kids are anxious wrecks and the parents are anxious wrecks."

Some experts suggest that children need more time for play and creativity in the wake of the pandemic, not less. Credit: Lillian Mongeau / EdSource

Too few teachers and parents are aware that play helps build the architecture of the growing brain, experts say.

"Play is not frivolous; it enhances brain structure and function and promotes executive function (i.e., the process of learning, rather than the content), which allow us to pursue goals and ignore distractions," as an American Academy of Pediatrics report put it. "When play and safe, stable, nurturing relationships are missing in a child's life, toxic stress can disrupt the development of executive function and the learning of prosocial behavior; in the presence of childhood adversity, play becomes even more important."

Some experts fear that the laser focus on falling test scores in recent years has led to a decrease in playful learning. They suggest that children need more time for play in the wake of the pandemic, not less. Amid the crisis of chronic absenteeism, engaging students on a compelling level may be more vital than ever.

Creativity is the secret formula, experts say, in a world where machines will always compute faster than humans. Drill and kill won't help children master high-level intellectual inquiry and conceptual analysis.

"You have to ask yourself, what's it going to take to outsmart the robots?" as Hirsh-Pasek put it. "We need kids who don't just memorize and take tests well, which AI will do better than our kids ever will. We need kids to be explorers and problem solvers."

For Us It's Feel-a-Nomics

Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

BlackPressUSA

I often refer to the economic conditions we see in our Black community is Black-a-nomics. But that description is truly rooted in Feel-a-nomics: the economy that you can feel.

Feel-a-Nomics gets past the philosophical abstractions you hear about so much on the news that politicians use to paint a rosier picture than the reality you're facing. Feel-a-Nomics doesn't care about corporate profits or dividend projections because those earnings don't trickle down to your wallet. It doesn't pay any attention to inflated job numbers when we know that it takes at least two of those jobs to earn a living wage.

Feel-a-Nomics is the economy that affects every day of your life.

Foreclosure rates are skyrocketing up 21% for the first half of 2026 and car repossessions were up 43% as of January. That's Feel-a-Nomics because it's your home on the chopping block and that's the car you need to get to and from your job.

Credit card debt is surging as more than half of Americans are forced to rely on credit cards to pay for basic needs like groceries, rent and utilities. Student debt has jumped since the Trump administration reversed course on Biden repayment and forgiveness plans. This unconstitutional war has brought us record high diesel prices and fertilizer costs along with 16 unnecessary American deaths with a Feel-a-Nomics impact of higher prices at the pump and the grocery store as it costs our farmers more not just to grow our food, but to send it to us too.

Consumer confidence is at its lowest level since 2014. The median household income in America is $87,460 but it takes a median income of $150,000 to buy a home. Affordable housing is sitting vacant because folks still can't afford it particularly with the dramatic cuts to SNAP and Medicaid we saw in Trump's "Big Ugly Bill."

The MAGA healthcare cuts are piling on new premiums and high deductibles. High inflation, particularly at the gas pump and the grocery store, is cutting our legs from under us. The value of our dollar is shrinking at every turn and it doesn't matter anymore if you want to get a second or third job because, according to another piss poor jobs report, the work just isn't out there.

According to the Federal Reserve, the net worth of Black households is down 25%. That's our home. That's our community. Those are our families! That's Feel-a-Nomics and, here in the Black community, it hurts. So let's turn that pain into progress.

After gutting the Voting Rights Act and more, President Trump and the MAGA Congress has done everything they can to cripple Black progress and Black communities. They've picked our pockets and our bodies to the bone. But there's something we can do about it.

The economics of voting are undeniable and, try as they might, they can't keep us out of the voting booth. That's why we have groups like State Voices, Repairers of the Breach, Common Cause, No Kings and more coming together to drive voter mobilization and participation. That's why Repairers of the Breach is organizing 1,000 marches to the polls across the South and battleground states like North Carolina where 201,609 voters cast their ballots on Thursday's first of early voting.

That's a 46.7% increase in early voting from 2022. That's huge! But it's just the start.

We need a generational, Presidential year-type turnout if we're going to turn this ship around and find the Feel-a-Nomics relief we need in our communities. That means we all have to do our part from the streets to the suites.

We need everyone from the PhDs to folks who don't have a GED. We need the farmers and forklift drivers, college students to life students, front line workers for everyone who works on the line.

We need everyone.

We've all felt the impact of MAGAnomics and Trumpism. We've all felt the pain whether it's that empty feeling looking at bills you just can't pay no matter what you cut or the cramp in your stomach because you're skipping meals trying to keep the lights on.

We've all felt the pain of these Feel-a-Nomics. But the good news is that we have an opportunity right now to do something about it. We have the opportunity to make a change at the ballot box.

But it's going to take all of us to make it happen. It's going to take every shoulder against the wheel to push back on the big money holding us down. It's going to take all of us but we've done it before.

Are you ready to do it again?

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026205994
Doing business as:
AFROINME MEDIA CONCEPT at 13623 DOTY AVENUE APT 24, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250-7592, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
KABIR OLASUNKANMI SUNMON at 13623 DOTY AVENUE APT 24, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250-7592
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **KABIR OLASUNKANMI SUNMON, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/2021
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 9/28/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: CORTNEY MAFFITT, 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: 9/28/2031
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25NWLC76167
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Cindy Cardona, an individual, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): IVER CAPITAL CORPORATION
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
12720 Norwalk Blvd.,
Norwalk, CA 90650
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):
Ali Nabavi,
SBN 232910
Coastal Crest Law Firm, APLC
24310 Moulton Pkwy, Suite O-1007,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Tel. (949) 751-6788
DATE (Fecha): 12/17/2025
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By C. Nash, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26SMCV01200
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
ROMAN PAK
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): GEICO DISCOVERY CORPORATION
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
WEST DISTRICT - SANTA MONICA
1725 MAIN ST.,
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
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):
Mark R. Nivinskus, Bar No. 195335, Erin R. Peikes, Bar No. 325776
Nivinskus Law Group, A Law Corporation
134 W. Wilshire Ave.,
Fullerton, CA 92832
Tel. (714) 533-8110
DATE (Fecha): 03/03/2026
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By J. Martinez, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 01/14/2026
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Jean Pool Celeita, an individual, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): IVER CAPITAL CORPORATION
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
12720 Norwalk Blvd.,
Norwalk, CA 90650
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):
Ali Nabavi,
SBN 232910
Coastal Crest Law Firm, APLC
24310 Moulton Pkwy, Suite O-1007,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Tel. (949) 751-6788
DATE (Fecha): 12/17/2025
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By J. Alvarado, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25NWLC76700
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Rosio Gillen, an individual, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): IVER CAPITAL CORPORATION
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
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The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
12720 Norwalk Blvd.,
Norwalk, CA 90650
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):
Ali Nabavi,
SBN 232910
Coastal Crest Law Firm, APLC
24310 Moulton Pkwy, Suite O-1007,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Tel. (949) 751-6788
DATE (Fecha): 12/17/2025
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By J. Alvarado, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026213332
Doing business as:
CLEAN AND REPAIR SOLUTIONS / CLEAN & REPAIR SOLUTIONS at 9046 EGLISE AVE, DOWNEY, CA 90240, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
ADRIAN GARCIA at 9046 EGLISE AVE, DOWNEY, CA 90240
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **ADRIAN GARCIA, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 10/7/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: MAYA HEAD, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/7/2031
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026218969
Doing business as:
ESUNA THERAPEUTICS at 25835 NARBONNE AVE, LOMITA, CA 90717, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
QUEENNIE LOYOLA BAQUIR at 613 E 226TH PLACE, CARSON, CA 90745
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **QUEENNIE LOYOLA BAQUIR, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 10/15/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: DENHAM GARCIA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/15/2031
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25NWLC77922
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Jayonna Veronica Reed, an individual, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): IVER CAPITAL CORPORATION
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
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¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
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The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
12720 Norwalk Blvd.,
Norwalk, CA 90650
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):
Ali Nabavi,
SBN 232910
Coastal Crest Law Firm, APLC
24310 Moulton Pkwy, Suite O-1007,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Tel. (949) 751-6788
DATE (Fecha): 12/24/2025
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By D. Gonzales, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026204281
Doing business as:
LUIS CONCRETE PUMPING at 20651 WYANDOTTE ST, WINNETKA, CA 91306, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
LUIS ANGEL BALAGUER at 20651 WYANDOTTE ST, WINNETKA, CA 91306
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **LUIS ANGEL BALAGUER, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 9/24/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: TINA TRAN, 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: 9/24/2031
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 2026

Political

Political Playback: California Capitol News You Might Have Missed

Shutterstock

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

AG Bonta Announces Action on Cryptocurrency, Sextortion Fraud -- Increasingly Targeting Gen-Z

California Attorney General Rob Bonta warned residents about rising cryptocurrency fraud and online sextortion scams, urging Californians to recognize warning signs and protect themselves as scammers increasingly target younger people through social media.

Speaking at a news conference on Oct. 19, Bonta said Americans lost $20.9 billion to internet-based scams in 2025, including $11.4 billion to cryptocurrency scams. He said artificial intelligence, deepfakes, and malicious smart contracts have made fraud easier to carry out and more difficult to detect and prevent.

While older Californians remain targets, Bonta said his office has seen a sharp rise in reports of Gen Z consumers being targeted on platforms such as Twitch, TikTok, and Instagram.

One growing scheme involves so-called rug-pull scams, in which fraudsters promote low-priced stocks or volatile cryptocurrencies through online investment groups and streaming communities. After generating interest and driving up prices, scammers sell their holdings, causing values to collapse and leaving investors with losses.

Bonta also warned about sextortion, in which scammers trick or coerce victims into sharing explicit images before threatening to distribute them to friends and family unless they pay. He advised victims not to give in to demands, saying scammers often do not release the images when victims refuse to pay. Instead, he recommended ignoring and blocking the perpetrators.

Another scheme, known as recovery fraud, targets people who have already lost money to cryptocurrency scams. Fraudsters impersonate blockchain recovery specialists or law enforcement officials and demand additional payments while promising to recover stolen assets.

Bonta urged Californians to be skeptical of promises of large returns on small investments, fake cryptocurrencies resembling established ones, and celebrity endorsements that may have been generated using artificial intelligence. He also warned that scammers can use AI to impersonate loved ones through manipulated video and audio.

"Never use a crypto ATM," Bonta said, emphasizing that transactions can be difficult to trace and reverse and that the machines lack adequate consumer protections.

His office has shut down more than 100 fraudulent websites over the past two years that collectively scammed victims out of at least $8.3 million, he said.

Bonta also highlighted Senate Bill 1208, which he said was recently signed into law. The measure allows law enforcement to petition a court to return seized cryptocurrency to victims, including when alleged perpetrators are outside U.S. jurisdiction.

Residents who have fallen victim to scams can report them to the California Department of Justice at oag.ca.gov/report.

Bonta also urged victims not to feel embarrassed, stressing that scammers are responsible for the harm they cause.

Steve Hilton Blasts Xavier Becerra for Condescending Remark About Black Americans

Republican gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton criticized Xavier Becerra over remarks about Black Americans during a recent radio interview, arguing that Becerra's response overlooked concerns about housing, education and the rising cost of living.

In an Oct. 19 statement, Hilton condemned Becerra's comments during an interview on KBLA Talk 1580 with host Tavis Smiley. Asked what he would do for Black voters, Becerra said he would not "promise you 40 acres and a mule" before citing cash bail reform as an example of his commitment.

Hilton called the response condescending and said it reflected a narrow understanding of Black Californians' priorities.

"Instead of talking about expanding homeownership, improving schools, or lowering the cost of living, Becerra's first concrete example was bail reform," Hilton said.

Hilton contrasted Becerra's answer with his own policy priorities, which include streamlining housing construction, expanding vocational and career pathways, and addressing affordability challenges that he said have driven working families out of California.

He argued that Black Californians deserve policies that expand economic opportunities rather than what he described as symbolic gestures and recycled political talking points.

Seneca Scott, an Oakland activist and host of the Gotham Oakland podcast, also criticized Becerra's remarks. Scott recently joined Hilton at a town hall in San Jose.

In a post on X, Scott said Becerra delivered the comment as a punchline and questioned the results of Democratic leadership in California. He cited concerns about schools, neighborhood conditions, homelessness and family stability.

Hilton's campaign said the candidate has prioritized outreach to Black communities, pointing to a recent interview with the Los Angeles-based newspaper OurWeekly. The campaign also said Black Californians consistently rank economic opportunity, quality schools, safe neighborhoods and the cost of living among their leading concerns.

"Black Californians deserve better than symbolic gestures and recycled talking points," said Hilton. "They deserve a governor who will actually expand opportunity—not one who treats their aspirations as a political box to check."

Hilton has discussed his vision for California in previous appearances with Smiley and attended KBLA's recent "California Voices: A Political Town Hall and Ballot Forum," according to his campaign.

The campaign's statement did not include a response from Becerra to Hilton's criticism or the full context of the radio interview.

A Fresh Start: Newsom Announces New Plan to Help Incarcerated People Prepare for Reentry

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a new rehabilitation-focused housing community at California State Prison, Corcoran, designed to help incarcerated people develop job skills, take responsibility for their actions, and prepare for life after release.

The initiative, announced Oct. 21, establishes an "honor dorm" that currently houses about 100 incarcerated people. The program is part of the state's California Model, which emphasizes rehabilitation, personal responsibility, and preparation for returning to the community.

Participation is voluntary and subject to eligibility requirements, including behavior, classification, and willingness to engage in programming. Residents have access to education, vocational training, rehabilitative programs, and employment preparation.

"Public safety doesn't end at the prison gate. It means holding people accountable while giving them the tools to change, prepare for a job and return to their communities ready to contribute," Newsom said.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Secretary Jeff Macomber said the initiative connects housing and programming with expectations for accountability.

"The goal is for people to use their time in prison productively and leave better prepared for the responsibilities ahead," Macomber said.

The Corcoran initiative builds on the state's rehabilitation efforts at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, which Newsom announced in 2023. In February 2026, San Quentin opened an 81,000-square-foot Learning Center to expand access to education, workforce training and reentry preparation.

State data cited in the announcement found that 81.5% of people who earned Rehabilitation Achievement Credits remained conviction-free three years after release. The rate was 76.7% for those who earned Educational Merit Credits and 66.7% for people who participated in general rehabilitative programming.

The figures reflect outcomes among participants in different programs but do not establish that rehabilitation alone caused the results.

The state says the California Model aims to reduce repeat offending and improve public safety by helping incarcerated people build skills and prepare for employment and community life after release.

California also provides services to crime victims and survivors through its Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services, which assists with rights, notifications, and access to support.

Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson Tackles Food Insecurity, Barriers to Eating Healthy

California state Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) convened a hearing in San Diego on Oct. 21 to examine food insecurity, barriers to accessing nutritious meals, and the role of state programs in improving public health.

The Oct. 21 hearing at the San Diego County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa brought together experts in food access, health care, and education to discuss the challenges facing families across California and potential policy solutions.

Jared Call, director of public policy and advocacy at the California Association of Food Banks, told lawmakers that 24% of California adults experienced food insecurity in 2025. Call also said 16 million Californians live in communities where the cost of basic needs, including housing, health care, transportation, child care, and food, exceeds their income.

Feeding San Diego estimates that about 430,000 people in San Diego County, including 123,000 children, experience food insecurity.

"Addressing inequality means listening to our community," Weber Pierson, a Democrat representing the 39th Senate District, said as the hearing began. Sen. Steve Padilla (D-Chula Vista) also participated.

Witnesses emphasized that food insecurity can have serious consequences for physical health. Dr. Alexandra Kharazi, a cardiothoracic surgeon who advocates for cardiovascular health, described how poor nutrition and limited access to fresh food can affect patients before and after surgery. She also highlighted disparities in food access in San Diego's South Bay.

The hearing also focused on California's Universal Meals program, which provides public school students with breakfast and lunch at no cost. Kim Frinzell, director of Nutrition Services at the California Department of Education, said schools served more than 868 million breakfasts and lunches during the 2025-26 school year.

Frinzell urged lawmakers to maintain funding for the program, citing research linking universal school meals to reduced food insecurity and improved educational outcomes. Alicia Hauser, executive director of Food and Nutrition Services for San Diego Unified School District, also called for continued investment in school kitchens and enough time for students to eat their meals.

Other proposals raised during the hearing included expanding community gardens, improving nutrition education, and strengthening food assistance programs. Public commenters also urged lawmakers to protect access to CalFresh benefits and support food banks facing increased demand.

Weber Pierson said the hearing would inform future policy discussions in Sacramento, including efforts to sustain school meal funding during a difficult budget year.

The discussion highlighted the connections between food access, household costs, health, and education, as lawmakers consider ways to help Californians obtain nutritious food.

Three Black Californians Among Governor Newsom's Latest Appointees

Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced several appointments and reappointments to state boards and commissions, including three Black Californians: San Diego community advocate Shane Harris, Oakland City Councilmember Kenneth Houston, and accounting professional Kristian Latta of Eastvale.

The appointments span youth justice, financial oversight, water management and public

administration.

Shane Harris, appointed to the State Advisory Group on Youth Justice, brings experience in community outreach, government affairs and communications.

Harris has served as director of communications and community partnerships at Gomez Trial Attorneys since 2024 and founded S Harris Communications in 2021. Previously, he directed government affairs for the National Black Contractors Association and San Pasqual Academy. He also worked with Just in Time for Foster Youth and served as a senior pastor

Kenneth Houston, who has represented Oakland's Seventh District on the City Council since 2025, was also appointed to the State Advisory Group on Youth Justice. Houston previously served as director and project manager at the Beautification Council from 2012 to 2024. He also serves on the Oakland Coliseum AEG Community Advisory Board.

Neither youth justice appointment requires Senate confirmation, and both positions are unpaid.

Kristian Latta was reappointed to the California Board of Accountancy, where she has served since 2022.

Latta currently works as an event accounting consultant at Insomniac Events. Her previous positions include financial reporting consultant at Snap Inc., accounting consultant at Alo Yoga and head of finance at Danger Jones.

She previously founded The Chic CPA and serves as second vice president of the National Association of Black Accountants' Los Angeles chapter.

Newsom also appointed political consultant Garry South of Marina del Rey to the California Water Commission. South previously advised former Gov. Gray Davis and worked on Newsom's gubernatorial campaign.

Nancy Corrigan of Glendora was reappointed to the California Board of Accountancy. A partner at Singerlewak LLP, Corrigan has served on the board since 2018.

Beatriz Gonzalez of Indio was reappointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. A former Coachella Valley Unified School District administrator, Gonzalez also serves on the Desert Community College District Board of Trustees.

SEIU Local 1000 and State of California Will Continue to Negotiate New Labor Contract

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

After the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000 labor contract expired June 30 and talks with Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration stalled, the union stepped up its efforts to secure a new agreement, saying its demands had gone unheeded.

On Oct. 21, thousands of state employees represented by SEIU Local 1000 staged a one-day walkout to protest alleged unfair labor practices during negotiations with Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration.

Although the strike has ended, SEIU Local 1000 President Anica Walls said further demonstrations or an expanded strike are highly likely if contract negotiations remain stalled. The union represents approximately 100,000 public employees statewide.

"We are out here because our jobs matter," Wells said. "If they continue to refuse to bargain with us in good faith, we are prepared to escalate."

Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) expressed support for SEIU Local 1000's labor action in an Instagram post, emphasizing the importance of fair treatment for workers.

"I stand in complete solidarity with SEIU Local 1000," Smallwood-Cuevas stated. "More than 100,000 state workers they represent are on strike today fighting for good-faith bargaining, fair treatment, and a contract that reflects the value of the essential public services they provide every day—all things that should be a given for the workers our state relies on the most."

Smallwood-Cuevas, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) added, "When California's workers hold the line, the whole nation pays attention."

According to union representatives, SEIU Local 1000 is seeking a contract that addresses rising living costs and provides greater workplace flexibility. The

California state workers staged a one-day strike Oct. 21 to protest alleged unfair labor practices and stalled contract negotiations over wages, remote work requirements and health care costs. The workers' previous contract expired June 30. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

SEIU Local 1000 President Anica Walls led a one-day strike by state workers in downtown Sacramento on Wednesday, Oct. 21. The union and the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) are scheduled to resume mediation Oct. 30. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

Tia Orr, executive director of SEIU California, joins demonstrators preparing to march from California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) headquarters at 1810 16th St. to the Capitol Annex Swing Space near the state Capitol during the one-day strike Oct. 21. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

union is demanding a 20% wage increase over three years and an end to Gov. Gavin Newsom's requirement that state employees work in person four days a week. Workers want more opportunities to telework to reduce fuel and commuting expenses.

The union is also seeking increased state contributions toward employee health care benefits to reduce workers' out-of-pocket costs.

On Sept. 18, Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 1729, authored by Assemblymember Alex Lee (D-San Jose), which sought to expand telework opportunities for state employees.

The bill would have required state agencies to offer telework options or provide written justifications for requiring employees to work in person. Supporters argued that telework could save taxpayers approximately $225 million annually by reducing office space and parking costs while lowering vehicle emissions and improving employee retention.

Newsom said the legislation would limit state departments' flexibility to manage their workforces and evaluate telework exemptions individually. He has also emphasized the benefits of in-person collaboration.

"I want people to come back to work, reengage, rediscover, collaborate, coordinate, develop relationships, friendships, and fall in love," Newsom said in July. "You get three-day weekends. Four years ago, that would've been a triumph. Now it's a burden."

Union organizers described the Oct. 21 walkout as a one-day unfair labor practice strike, rather than an indefinite work stoppage. The action was intended to demonstrate solidarity and increase pressure on the state during negotiations.

SEIU Local 1000 has been without a contract since its previous three-year agreement expired June 30. Negotiations are expected to resume as both sides seek a new agreement.

Responding to the statewide walkout, the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) said it "remains focused on achieving a fair and responsible agreement with SEIU Local 1000 and continues to be available at the bargaining table."

Sports

Brian Polking, USA TODAY

Rams Run Away From Raiders

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

Matthew Stafford threw for 195 yards and three touchdowns to become the Los Angeles Rams' career leader in passing touchdowns, and the Rams looked like the team many had favored to win the Super Bowl, defeating the Las Vegas Raiders 35-21 on Sunday.

The Rams (3-4) still have work to do to overcome their slow start and numerous injuries, but the victory improved their chances of becoming a factor in the playoff race.

Since the NFL expanded its playoff field from 12 to 14 teams in 2020, 10 of 41 teams have reached the postseason after opening the season 3-4. By comparison, only four of 33 teams have made the playoffs after starting 2-5.

At least in the first half, when they built a 28-6 lead, the Rams showed why they entered the season as Super Bowl favorites. The Raiders (3-4) made a push in the second half but suffered their fourth consecutive loss.

"It's nice feeling a little bit more comfortable in the fourth quarter, and that's just a testament to how the guys played," Stafford said. "Great team effort. I thought our coaches did a great job of giving us a plan that we felt great about coming in here to execute. Just proud of the way we worked throughout the week, and I think that showed today. We're going to have to keep doing that and doing it at a high level."

Stafford Makes Rams History

Stafford now has 155 touchdown passes with the Rams, one more than former team record-holder Roman Gabriel.

The reigning MVP also became the first player to hold the career passing touchdown record for two different franchises. Stafford previously set Detroit's record with 282 touchdown passes.

The Rams received a strong performance from wide receiver Puka Nacua, a Las Vegas native who had been listed as questionable with a calf injury. Nacua caught eight passes for 68 yards and a touchdown.

Tight end Davis Allen also contributed two touchdown receptions, his first trips to the end zone this season.

"I'm super grateful for everybody in the training room and also the belief in coach (Sean McVay) and everybody for me to be able to go out there and still perform," Nacua said.

"The communication, I think, (for) Matthew is something that he prides himself in, but especially when not being able to get some of those (practice) reps. The time to mentally still (get) a rep and have that conversation so we know where we can be on the same page."

Rams Ground Game Finds Its Rhythm

The Rams also found success on the ground, with Blake Corum and Kyren Williams receiving an increased workload.

Williams carried the ball 16 times for 99 yards, while Corum rushed 17 times for 93 yards. Both running backs broke off 17-yard runs.

"I think those guys did a great job," McVay said. "They were both awesome. I thought they leveled off. I think it was a great reflection of them deserving the well-earned credit but also the guys that were part of the blocking surface."

McVay praised the offensive line for helping the running backs stay productive and keeping the offense out of difficult down-and-distance situations.

"When you're able to do that, you're not in a bunch of bad spots on second down and on third down and a lot of things can come off of that," McVay said.

"I thought that was the first game that was reflected. We were able to really do some of the things that I've been in alignment with when we've been able to operate at a pretty decent clip offensively. Both Blake and Kyren did a great job."

Raiders Come Up Short

Las Vegas quarterback Kirk Cousins passed for 295 yards and touchdowns to wide receiver Tre Tucker and running back Ashton Jeanty.

Tucker finished with five receptions for 103 yards, while Jeanty hauled in eight catches for 61 yards.

Cousins leads the NFL with 16 touchdown passes.

Despite the Raiders' second-half push, the Rams' 35-point performance was their highest-scoring output of the season.

Next Up: Chargers at Rams

The Rams will look to build on their victory when they host the Los Angeles Chargers at SoFi Stadium this week.

The matchup provides another opportunity for the Rams to gain momentum as they work to climb back into the playoff picture.

Dec 11, 1977; Los Angeles, CA, USA: FILE PHOTO; Los Angeles Rams running back Lawrence McCutcheon (30) is chased by Atlanta Falcons defensive back Ray Brown (34) at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Mandatory Credit: Long Photography-USA TODAY Sports

Former Ram Lawrence McCutcheon Passes

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

Lawrence McCutcheon, a five-time Pro Bowl running back for the Los Angeles Rams who later enjoyed a long career in the team's front office, died Friday. He was 76. McCutcheon's family announced his death through the Rams, saying he had endured a "long, courageous battle with Parkinson's disease."A standout running back during the 1970s, McCutcheon helped establish the Rams' powerful ground game under head coach Chuck Knox, becoming one of the franchise's most productive players. A Rams Running Back Legend

The Rams selected McCutcheon out of Colorado State in 1972. The Plainview, Texas, native quickly established himself as a key contributor in Knox's offense, widely known as "Ground Chuck."

McCutcheon played his first eight NFL seasons with the Rams, from 1972 through 1979. He led the team in rushing every season from 1973 to 1977, earning five consecutive Pro Bowl selections.

During that five-year stretch, McCutcheon recorded more than 5,300 rushing yards and over 6,800 yards from scrimmage. His accomplishments included four 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

He also became the first player in Rams franchise history to rush for 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons.

McCutcheon's combination of speed, toughness and versatility made him one of the most dynamic running backs of his era. His contributions helped the Rams establish themselves as one of the NFC's most competitive teams.

In 1974, McCutcheon earned second-team Associated Press All-Pro honors, further cementing his place among the league's top running backs.

Super Bowl XIV and a Lasting Legacy

McCutcheon's final season with the Rams came in 1979, when the team reached Super Bowl XIV under head coach Ray Malavasi.

The Rams faced the Pittsburgh Steelers in the championship game, with McCutcheon delivering one of the memorable moments of the contest.

Nicknamed "Clutch," McCutcheon threw a 24-yard touchdown pass that gave Los Angeles the lead. The Rams ultimately fell to Pittsburgh 31-19 after the Steelers scored 14 unanswered points.

Despite the defeat, McCutcheon's performance in the Super Bowl added another memorable chapter to his Rams career.

Following his playing days, McCutcheon remained connected to the organization, continuing his relationship with the Rams through a lengthy career in the team's front office.

His legacy extends beyond his accomplishments on the field. McCutcheon was part of a generation of Rams players who helped shape the franchise's identity and establish its tradition of excellence.

He will be remembered as a five-time Pro Bowl selection, a pioneering 1,000-yard rusher and a valued member of the Rams family.

Bruins Keep On Rolling

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

No. 9 UCLA continues to make history.

The Bruins defeated Michigan State 28-10 last week, improving to 7-0 for the first time since 2005. Ty Dieffenbach threw a 63-yard touchdown pass as UCLA extended its winning streak and remained among the nation's elite.

UCLA (5-0 Big Ten) briefly trailed for the first time since its 17-15 victory over then-No. 13 Oregon two weeks ago. The Bruins responded with a dominant performance, outgaining the Spartans 443-156.

The victory also marked a historic milestone for head coach Bob Chesney, who became the first UCLA head coach to begin his tenure with a 7-0 record. Chesney had previously become the first coach in program history to start his tenure 5-0.

Chesney has now won 17 consecutive regular-season games dating back to 2025.

The Bruins improved to 5-3 all-time against Michigan State and earned their first victory over the Spartans in Pasadena since the 1966 Rose Bowl Game.

UCLA remains the lone undefeated team in the Big Ten, while UCLA and Ohio State are the only teams in the conference without a loss in league play. As of publication, only three undefeated teams remained in the Football Bowl Subdivision: UCLA, Miami and Utah.

Defense Sets the Tone

The Bruins' defense continued to deliver, holding Michigan State to seven points in the first half and just three in the second.

UCLA has limited opponents to seven points or fewer in nine of its 14 halves this season, a 64% rate. The Bruins rank fourth in the Big Ten, allowing just 15.3 points per game.

Linebacker Sammy Omosigho has been a major contributor. The Oklahoma transfer ranks first nationally with five forced fumbles and leads the Big Ten with 5.5 sacks.

UCLA also spread the wealth offensively, with three different players rushing for touchdowns. The Bruins accomplished that feat for the fourth time this season in front of an announced crowd of 33,757, the second-largest home attendance figure of the year.

Bruins Respond After Early Mistakes

Michigan State (2-6, 0-5 Big Ten) took an early 7-0 lead after Devin Vaught recovered a Jalen Woods fumble and returned it 56 yards to the UCLA 15-yard line. The turnover helped set up third-string quarterback Kayd Coffman's 14-yard touchdown pass to Keshawn Williams in the first quarter.

UCLA coach Bob Chesney acknowledged the Bruins' early mistakes.

"It was sloppy," Chesney said. "Two fumbles, two drops, two holding penalties. That's ultimately what happened out there. You can't do it if you want to win really close games. We're taking three, four touchdowns off the board by doing that."

Javian Thomas answered with a 7-yard touchdown run to tie the game at 7-7.

Wayne "The Roadrunner" Knight then scored on a 1-yard plunge, his 12th rushing touchdown and 13th overall, giving UCLA a 14-7 lead in the second quarter.

Woods led UCLA in rushing with 112 yards on 14 carries, averaging 8 yards per attempt. It was his 10th career game with at least 100 rushing yards and his second this season.

Thomas and Woods each fumbled in the first half. Those were the only two fumbles between them over their previous 118 combined carries.

Chesney also addressed Knight's injury and praised Woods' performance.

"He got hit in the side, like his ribs, oblique, whatever you want to call it. Nothing in there that's overly dangerous. He wanted to go back in and probably could have, and we just didn't want to do it," Chesney said.

"And I thought [Anthony] Woods was rolling today. To be able to see some of the holes that he found and be explosive and physical was really good. But both of those guys put the ball on the ground early. That's not where we were looking for, but I love their response."

Next Up: Nevada at the Rose Bowl

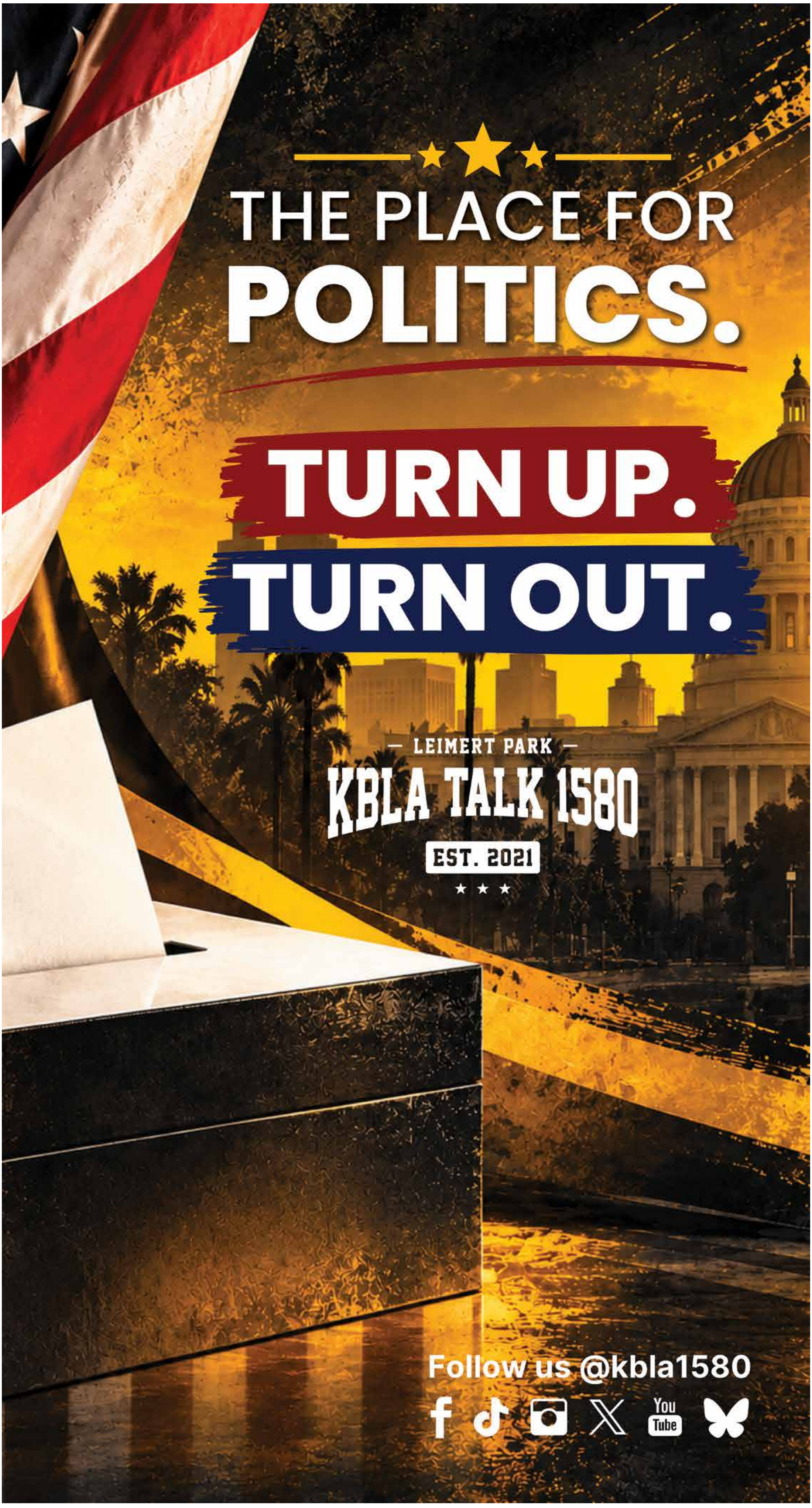
The Bruins will look to keep their undefeated season rolling when they host Nevada at the Rose Bowl on Saturday.

Kickoff: 1:30 p.m. Broadcast: Big Ten Network

UCLA will aim to continue its historic start and maintain its position among the nation's top teams.

Ty Dieffenbach (photo by Scott Chandler)

Local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Local

Healing the Wounds Behind the Walls

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow
This story was produced for the USC Center for Health Journalism's Ethnic Media Collaborative.

Inside a 12-week program teaching incarcerated people to confront pain, grief, and the patterns that shaped their lives.

In a corner of a large visiting hall at California State Prison, Corcoran, six men in purple caps and gowns sat in a circle on an early August afternoon, waiting to graduate.

The ceremony did not reflect a typical academic exercise, but the culmination of a unique and emotional 12-week journey through trauma, grief, accountability, and healing known as SAGE.

Serving sentences for crimes ranging from sex crimes to murder, the graduates took turns describing the impact the course had on their incarcerated lives.

"In the prison system, they see population," Clifford E. Lewis Jr. 49 said, referring to the prison staff. "But groups like this help create community. To be rehabilitated, you have to learn how to move from a population to belonging to a community."

"Before now," Lewis continued, "I saw each person here as an inmate, but now when I pass by, I don't see another inmate. I see a brother."

Taiwan Reed, 43, who said he joined as a survivor of childhood abuse, said the course "helped to heal from the trauma I had as a kid."

SAGE is among a patchwork of programs across California prisons where experts say there is little structured help, therapy, or processing for grief and trauma, despite high instances of both among the incarcerated.

"Prison doesn't stop for grief," said Nena Messina, a retired UCLA research criminologist who has studied trauma programming in California prisons since 2014. "There's no compassion."

Eddie Brown, 64, who said he has served 26 years in other facilities including Corcoran, said the course has, "taken away my anti-social behavior." He added: "I am more self-aware now."

Teresa 'Tree' Moses, a 43-year-old woman with short micro-curls wearing black pants and a colorful, multi-colored sequined jacket, ran the room. Everyone calls her Tree. Her organization, **Tree's House Soul 4 Sole**, champions SAGE, or Standing And Guiding Experiences.

"I do soul work so that the sole of your feet can continue to maneuver," Moses said. "Which means we navigate tough terrain of trauma, grief, childhood experiences, so that no matter where you go in life, your feet is always able to move."

Moses launched SAGE in 2022, six years after she was released from a decade of custody and court-ordered treatment related to the death of her 8-year-old son.

Raijon Daniels died in 2006 after years of abuse, which the Contra Costa County coroner attributed to battered child syndrome. Moses, who was then 23, was charged in connection with his death. In 2009, three court-appointed doctors concluded Moses was legally insane at the time of the abuse. A judge found her not guilty of murder by reason of insanity and committed her to Napa State Hospital.

"I spent three and a half years in jail fighting this case, fighting being the murderer of my eight-year-old son," she said. "I was held accountable, and I have served the time."

In 2013, a judge allowed Moses to leave the hospital for state-supervised outpatient treatment, and in December 2016, court records show she was granted unconditional release.

"Honestly, my son never had a chance because I had so many different wounds from childhood that had gone unaddressed," Moses said. She said she was sexually abused by relatives starting when she was 5, and that she became a mother at 14.

Moses said she grew up never understanding what a healthy relationship looked or felt like, or how to speak up for herself and ask for help. Violence and abuse were normalized, she said of her rough upbringing. "It cost me to not know how to use my voice and ask for help…It cost me to normalize what abuse was in the household…It cost me everything."

Moses said she built SAGE's curriculum from the pain of her own life's journey.

While at Napa State Hospital, Moses enrolled in a six-month decision-making course, during which the facilitator asked Moses to read a book on making better choices and teach a class on the findings herself; Moses spent the next two and a half years co-facilitating these courses alongside the hospital's three teachers.

"That is where my roots started growing," she said.

After Moses' release, she enrolled at Coastline Community College, earning associate degrees in psychology and in social and behavioral sciences.

"I became the ward president over every unit that I lived on there, because somehow I can get 80 patients in a room to have a conversation and be able to advocate for them."

Filling the Gaps Grant by Grant

In 2022, the American Psychiatric Association added prolonged grief disorder a severe, persistent grief that lasts for more than 12 months and disrupts everyday functioning — to the DSM-5 as a formal condition.

California's prison mental health system has been under federal court supervision since a class action filed in 1990 on behalf of prisoners with serious mental illness, a case now captioned Coleman v. Newsom. That oversight has produced a public record of what the state provides, including levels of care, staffing, crisis beds, and suicide prevention, through a court-supervised program guide and periodic monitoring reports by a court-appointed Special Master.

Nena Messina is a criminologist, researcher, and President and CEO of Envisioning Justice Solutions

The Ninth Circuit has also described persistent problems with staffing and the state's compliance with court-ordered mental-health requirements. While the Coleman case covers prisoners with serious mental illness, trauma and grief are more widespread and often harder to recognize, experts say, which makes them harder to treat.

Stephanie Covington, co-director of the Center for Gender and Justice, whose trauma-focused programs are used in correctional settings, said people entering the criminal justice system have higher rates of trauma histories than the general population.

"Corrections needs to become trauma informed," she said. "They need to have trauma-informed programming in every institution, just like they have substance use programming."

"Some people may not even recognize what they have experienced as trauma," Covington continued. "When adversity has been part of someone's life for years, it can seem normal even when it affects how that person responds to stress, conflict, or relationships."

Covington's program, Exploring Trauma+, is a six-session course delivered by trained peer facilitators who are themselves serving long sentences.

Nena Messina, who runs the non-profit Envisioning Justice Solutions, led the first randomized controlled trial of a trauma intervention for men incarcerated for violent offenses in 2014. The trial was conducted at Corcoran.

"Often there's punitive reaction to normal displays of grieving behaviors," said Messina.

She said incarcerated people often have to hide or suppress signs of grief, like crying or withdrawing, to avoid consequences.

Of the 221 men in the Corcoran trial, 131 men completed the course, showing significant improvement over the remaining control group on 11 of 13 trauma-related measures like anxiety, depression, psychological well-being, current traumatic distress, and several measures of anger.

"Not only do they impact their trauma symptomology and their trauma-related psychological symptoms, but they're reducing their anger and aggression and hostility as well," Messina said.

California pays for some of this work, but the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) does not directly fund trauma or other programs for residents, Messina said.

The CDCR funds outside nonprofits through competitive grants, totaling $4 million a year. SAGE is one of about two dozen programs funded in the current three-year cycle, which began in July 2025.

A training poster from Teresa "Tree" Moses' SAGE curriculum depicts "Broken Roots Community," a ruined street where different buildings name the various challenges and conditions she says often put men in prison.

So is Covington's program Exploring Trauma+.

The continuation of these services depends solely on community organizations securing additional funding; Messina explained, who continues to advocate for a dedicated funding source for these programs.

"For a decade, I have been writing the proposals on a hamster wheel to keep things going, when they should be 'in place' as regulations," Messina said, as "policy to direct treatment needs."

Inside the Curriculum

The SAGE program combines pictures, writing assignments, animals, group exercises and personal stories to get participants to examine experiences they may have never had the language to describe.

Moses said participants climb what she calls a pyramid of restorative transformation: safety, identity, accountability, grief, and empathy. Those who complete the course are not called graduates, but 'practitioners' because Moses believes that the work does not stop at 12 weeks.

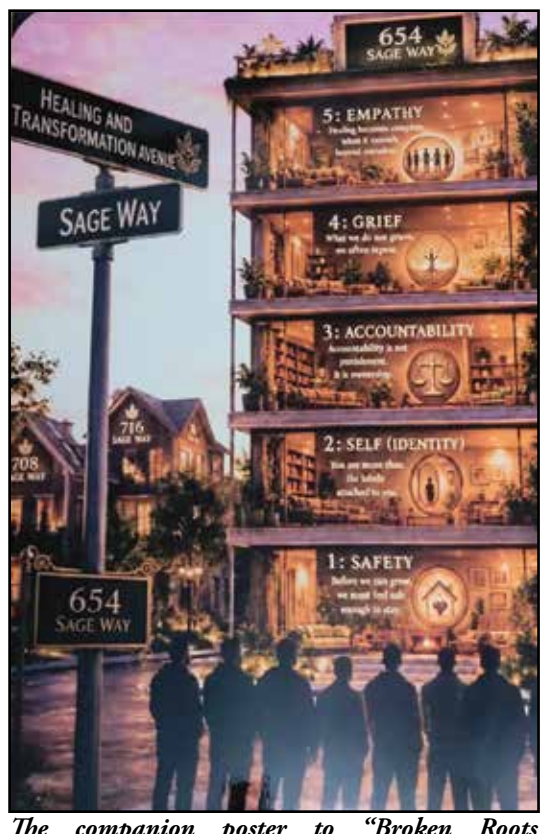
Eight digital posters were hung on the walls in the prison room where the six men gathered on this August day.

One of the posters featured a neighborhood of burned-out buildings labeled Broken Roots Community. The image is meant to convey the enduring realities of growing up in a world of crime, gangs, addiction, grief, and other adverse childhood experiences.

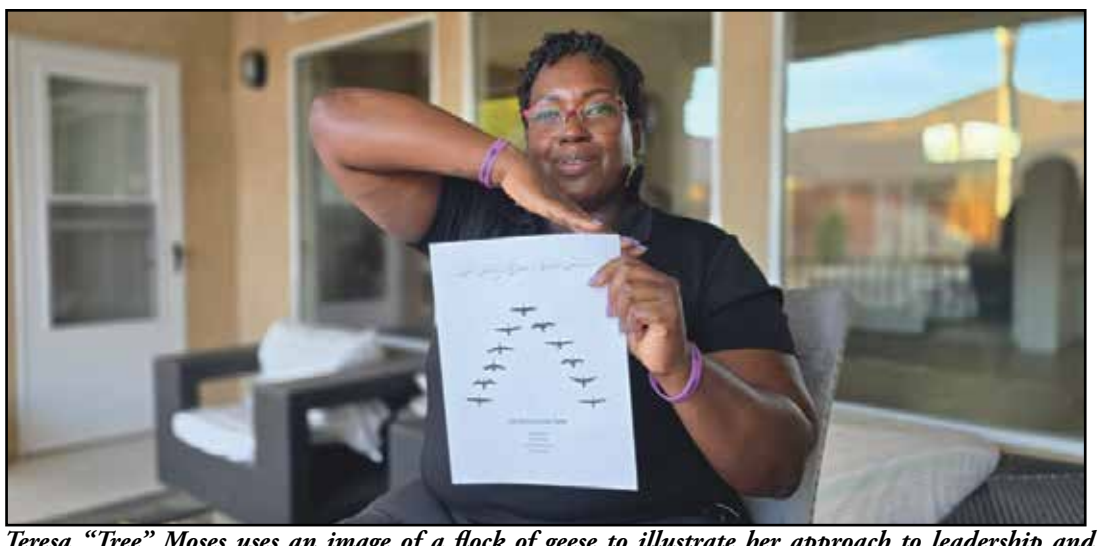
Another drawing showed a well-lit, five-story, plant-laden building on a street called Sage Way. Each floor carried words of hope.

SAGE is built as the five floors shown on the Sage Way poster. Most correctional programming, Moses said, opens at the offense and works backward.

But Moses said she does not begin by asking participants what crime brought them to prison. Instead, she asks them to examine what happened leading up to the crime, what they learned to do to survive the violence around them, and ultimately, how their actions have affected those around them.



The companion poster to "Broken Roots Community" shows 654 Sage Way—a five-story building where each floor represents a stage of Teresa "Tree" Moses' 12-week SAGE curriculum.



Teresa "Tree" Moses uses an image of a flock of geese to illustrate her approach to leadership and followership.

Six of the 10 SAGE graduates pose with their 'diplomas' alongside facilitator Teresa "Tree" Moses at California State Prison, Corcoran

A SAGE graduation cake celebrates the completion of Moses' 12-week training

Stephanie Covington, co-director of the Center for Gender and Justice, and author of Exploring Trauma+

Moses said she is grateful for the opportunity to channel her pain into helping others heal.

"If you can't use words, use pictures. If you can't use pictures, use textures. If you can't use textures, use colors," Moses said. "There is a way to express, so that nobody's voice is ever left behind. And you don't have to stay in that pain."

Moses begins each 12-week program by reciting a line by writer Isabella de Bruno: If you do not heal old wounds, you will bleed on people that never cut you.

"Sometimes you're surviving from a place of pain," Moses said, "and you're not able to see how that's rippling an impact of pain across the community and future generations."

"And the truth is, I absolutely miss my son," she said. "But I also understand that I have a room full of someone else's sons, and I'm going to give [them] the best that I have."

For Moses, creating a space for raw emotional expression is essential because the prison environment forces individuals to lock away deep, personal grief.

"It's not just the loss of freedom that people are experiencing inside," Moses said, "but not being able to go to Big Momma's funeral, not being able to watch their children grow up. And then not having space where you feel welcome enough and safe enough to even express it."

Moses tells participants that crying is not weakness.

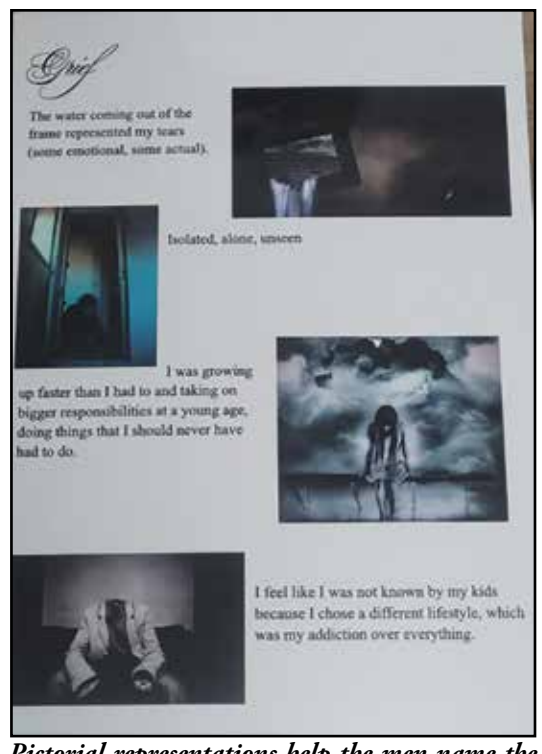
"I believe crying is a libation," she said.

Moses has proposed extending the SAGE experience to family members so that people returning home and those waiting for them can develop a shared vocabulary and resources to navigate difficult conversations.

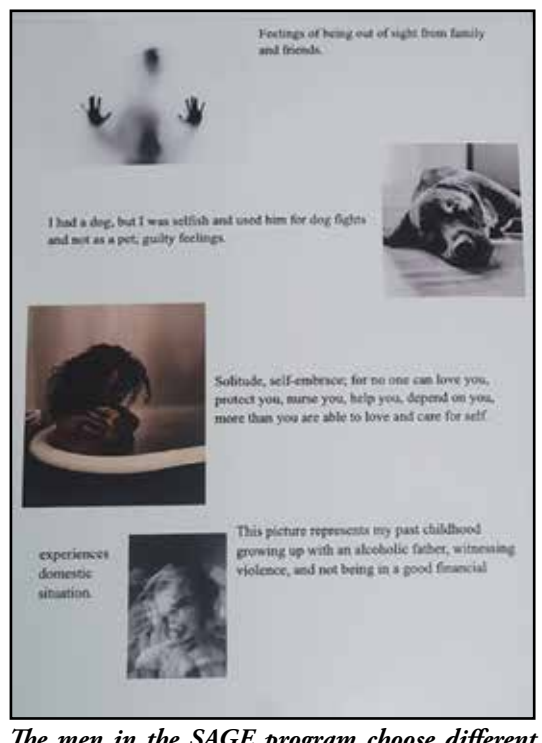
Marqese Clark, another inmate at Corcoran, said he enrolled in SAGE because of grief and loss he experienced while incarcerated. He has since begun passing on the lessons of the program to other men, including writing two new curricula — one on decision-making and the other on relationships — for folks to use when he is released.

"Attending this program makes me feel like a therapist now," Clark said. "I talk to some of the men here, helping them and myself not to repeat the same cycle."

All six men remain incarcerated.



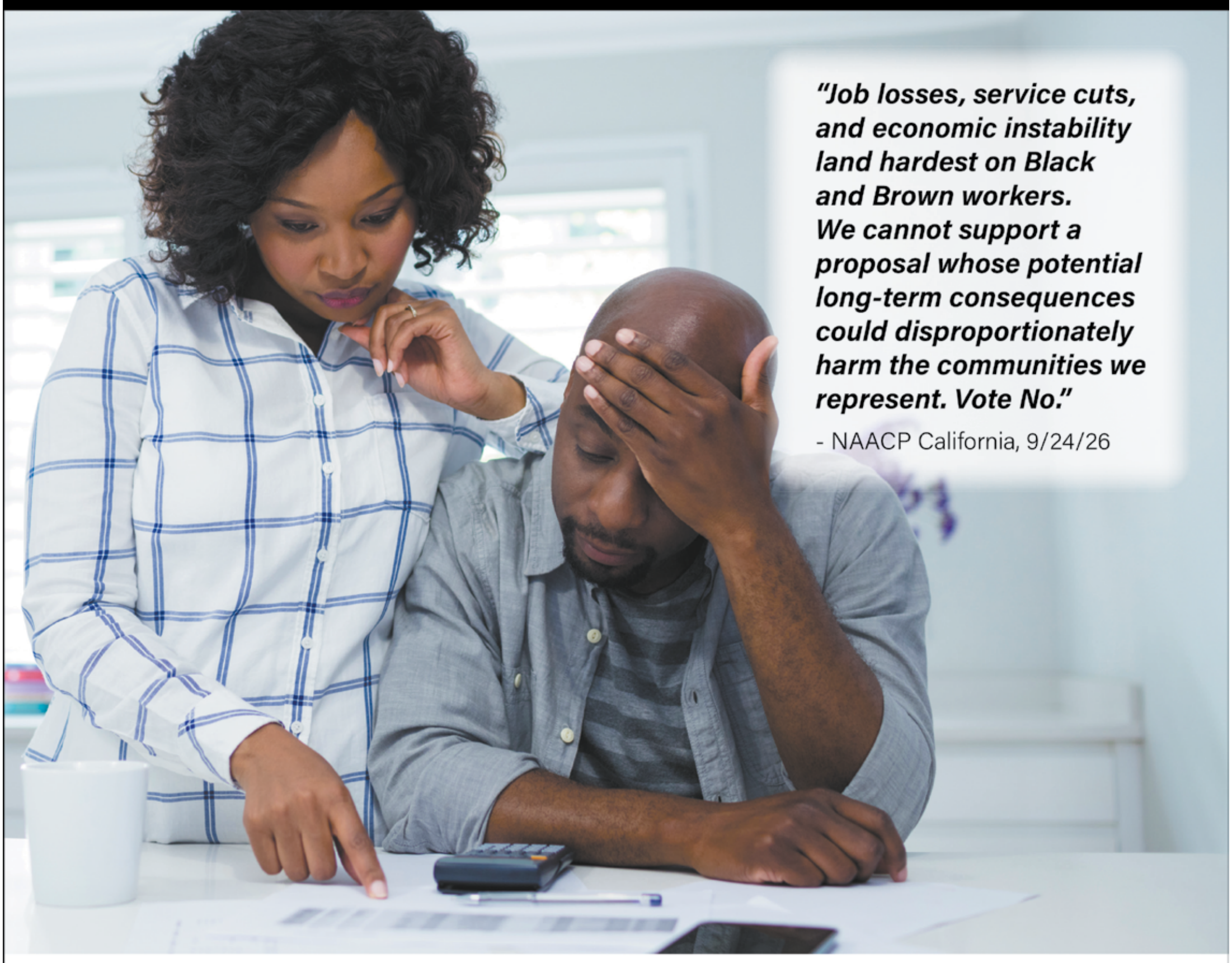
Pictorial representations help the men name the grief they're feeling and may never have had the space to process



The men in the SAGE program choose different images to express their grief

They're all voting No on Prop 40:

- ✓ California African American Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Citizens for Accountable Leadership
- ✓ Asm. Mike Gipson
- ✓ California Primary Care Association
- ✓ NAACP California/Hawaii State Conference
- ✓ California Medical Association
- ✓ California School Boards Association



VOTE NO ON PROP 40

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

California can't afford Prop 40.

NO ON 40

PROTECT FUNDING for SCHOOLS, HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Scan for more information

VoteNoOn40.org

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

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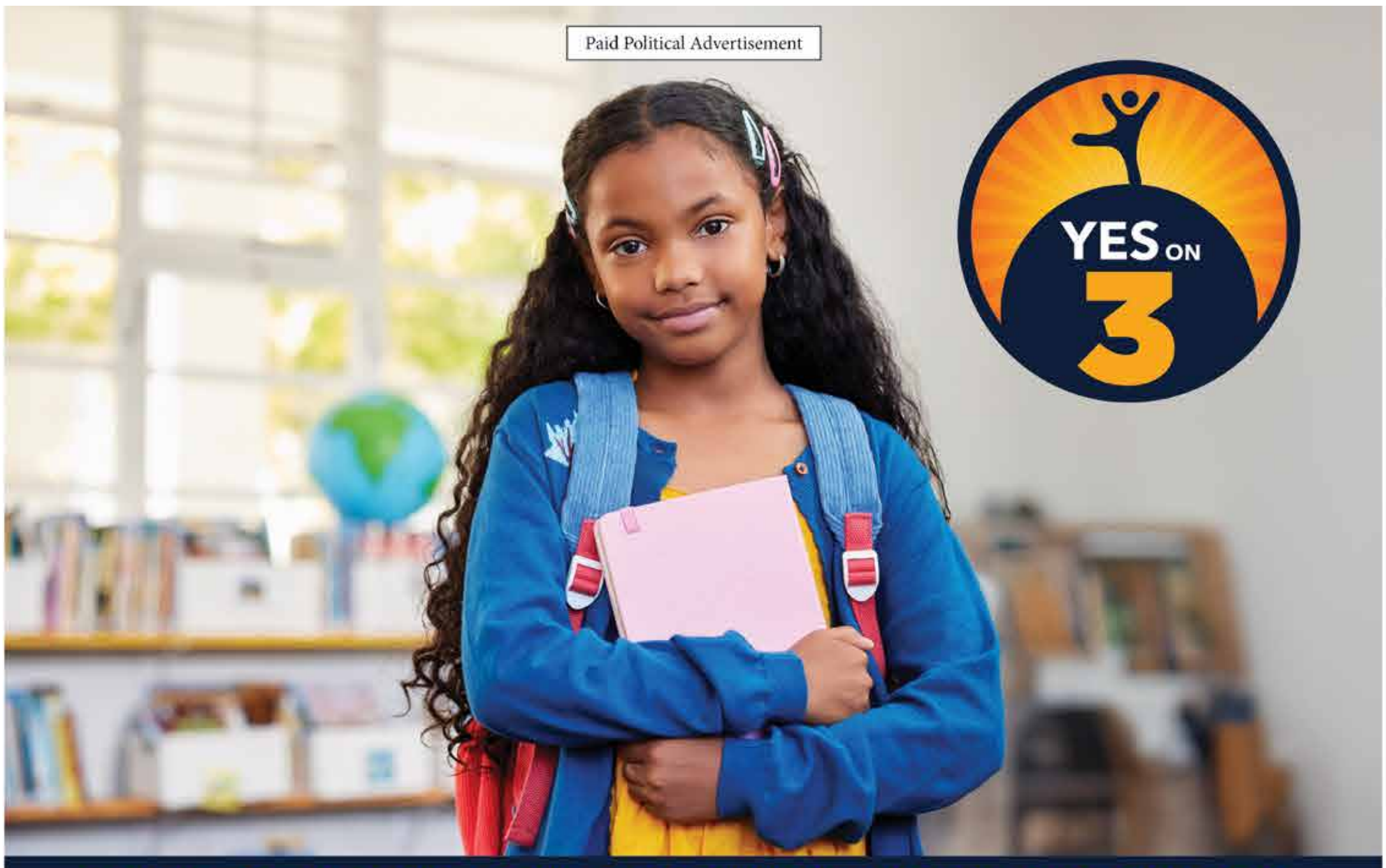

PROTECT LOCAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

3 Reasons to Vote YES ON PROP 3

1 Prop 3 prevents billions in cuts to schools.
Without Prop 3, our local schools and community colleges face devastating cuts which mean even more crowded classrooms and mass teacher layoffs.

2 It is not a tax increase.
It keeps the current income tax rate on the wealthiest 2%. Nobody else pays a dime.

3 Every dollar is accounted for.
Funding goes to local schools and community colleges, not politicians in Sacramento, with independent audits to prove it.

ENDORSED BY:

NAACP California Hawaii STATE CONFERENCE

CTA CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

CA Black Women's COLLECTIVE PAC

BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT

BWOPA CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA BLACK POWER NETWORK

Parents, Teachers, Nurses, and Firefighters Agree

VOTE YES ON PROP 3

ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 3

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

YesProp3CA.com

Local

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LOWER THE COST OF LIVING

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FOR GOVERNOR

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