

WEEKLY FLASH

Alert: Advocacy Campaign on Key Housing Bill Coming

For residents, “housing” is just behind “traffic” as the region’s worst problem, according to our polling. For business leaders, housing often rises to number one because housing costs make it very difficult to attract top talent. In the next few weeks the Council will ramp up an advocacy effort to pass [Senate Bill 303](#) (SB 303). According to university studies and housing experts, the main reason for the lack of housing in the Bay Area is a broken local government planning and permit process. SB 303 is an important solution that would reduce risk for housing ventures and streamline regulations to allow permitting to occur more efficiently – with more planning and environmental review occurring at the front end, and on a citywide basis. The bill provides funds for this planning shift. The result should be better, more comprehensive, planning, plus more infill and affordable housing. Right now, California ranks last in housing affordability. We hope you will participate in advocacy efforts.



98% of Members Provide Healthcare, 9.5% of Payroll Costs

With healthcare reform dominating Sacramento dealings, the Council conducted a survey of our Executive Committee and Board of Directors about healthcare at their company and their opinions on reform issues to better inform our advocacy. Top line results include:

- 98% of members provide healthcare to fulltime California employees
- Coverage costs as a percent of payroll vary up to more than 20%, but the median was 9.5%
- In 3-5 years, 52% of companies project continuing their current coverage, 32% plan modest reductions, 5% significant reductions, and 5% plan to enhance coverage.
- Many members are concerned about a new healthcare fee of 4% - 7.5% of payroll on small businesses without healthcare, but 55% say it’s time for them to pay their “fair share.”
- 68% support universal coverage to spread out cost risk.
- 71% believe its important or critically important that employers encourage healthy lifestyles to drive down costs.
- 85% want California to enact reforms this year.



Article of the Week

[This article](#) by *Sacramento Bee* columnist Daniel Weintraub reviews a poll by the Public Policy Institute of California that shows alignment of California residents with Bay Area Council members on healthcare reform.

Quote of the Week

“In the past they would moan and groan privately.” - Tony Quinn, a Republican political consultant on [state GOP revolt](#) against the Governor, in the *Los Angeles Times*.

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