



Past alerts

August 20, 2021 Election Update

Governor Gavin Newsom Earns A+ from PawPAC

Friends and Advocates,

Two elections are imminent, on **August 31** and **September 14**. They are covered here in reverse order, due to the enormity of the gubernatorial issue before us.

To ensure the theme of this alert is not missed:

PawPAC endorses Gavin Newsom for Governor.

pawpac.org/govnewsom

Vote between now and September 14 to keep Governor Newsom in office. Ballots must be postmarked, placed in a dropbox, or delivered to a polling place by 8 pm on September 14.



GAVIN NEWSOM FOR GOVERNOR 2022

After a number of unsuccessful attempts to license a photo of Governor Newsom out in nature signing laws, this public domain head shot of the Gov found its way into rené's Photoshop...

Voter Guide: California Gubernatorial Election

There's much at stake for Republicans and Democrats on the Hill and at the state level. Certainly there's plenty of locker room discussion on that topic, but that's not our charge: it's the animals. So let's get to it:

Governor Gavin Newsom deserves and needs your vote, and that of every animal advocate. He's already proven his commitment to wildlife, habitats and companion animals. While there's more we can and will be asking for—protections for animals in farming, labs and entertainment, for example—the Governor has a running start with the actions he's already taken.

In 2020, Governor Newsom received an A+ from PawPAC by seeing that Ash Kalra's [AB 3030](#) was not just another dead bill. The Governor

turned it into [Executive Order N-82-20](#) for biodiversity, and established the [California Biodiversity Collaborative](#), a next-gen network of agencies and orgs committed to preserving biodiversity in the state. The EO is the Governor's endorsement of a global initiative called [Leaders Pledge for Nature](#) to conserve 30% of land and 30% of water by 2030.

Earlier in 2020, just before the onset of COVID, Governor Newsom planned \$50 million for a [UC Davis shelter grant program](#) to become a "no-kill state," as he put it. The funds would reduce euthanasias by providing grants to animal shelters. However, when COVID altered life as we knew it, the fund was reduced to \$5 million.

When the Governor announced a budget surplus last May, [PawPAC appealed](#) (as surely others did) for a restoration of the \$45 million that was lost, and **it's now restored in the 2021 Enacted Budget!** (Click "show more.")

But wait, there's more! For 2021-2022 Governor Newsom has appropriated \$230 million for wildlife crossings and fish passage, as a part of a \$7.5B natural resources budget which would also provide:

- habitat restoration
- increased endangered species protection
- a wolf conflict program (farmer compensation)
- Salton Sea and Clear Lake restorations
- coastal wetland restoration
- oil well abandonment and remediation
- support for seven conservancies

See the PawPAC [May alert](#) for more details on the above. Not all of the budget has been passed. The last day of session is September 10.

As for environmental and climate impact, the subject is vast, but suffice to say the Governor is shouldering a huge climate burden that was handed to him from previous generations/administrations. And he's doing it in the midst of a pandemic. He announced his [clean transportation EO](#) last fall, is tackling wildfires with \$1.2B in the budget, and supports a reform of the Department of Toxic Substances Control with [SB 158](#), which will include \$4.68 million for the Exide

contamination cleanup in Vernon.

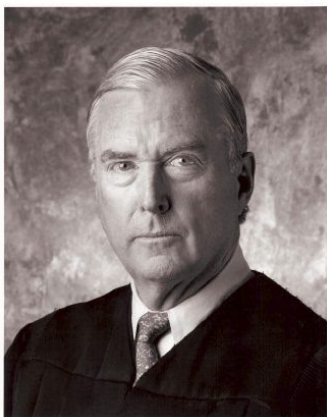
Governor Newsom is endorsed by [California League of Conservation Voters](#) for his advances on climate change. And [Sierra Club](#) has excellent rationales on its page opposing the recall of the Governor.

There is also the [near-\\$1 billion budget](#) for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which has some overlap to the above. Some of that budget must be taken with a grain of salt, since CDFW decisions in so many cases do not align with that of animal advocates. But that's a reflection the DFW, not the Governor.

How's the Governor doing with appointments? [Mountain Lion Foundation](#) is extremely encouraged by Governor Newsom's appointments to the Fish and Game Commission, and he's been praised by environmental groups for tapping Liane Randolph as California Air Resources Board Chair.

— rené rowland, PawPAC Chair

**More insight is needed on appointments. Please see the Boston Terrier below.*



Did you know?

Gavin Newsom's father, Judge William Newsom, was a founding board member of the Mountain Lion Foundation.

[Read more](#)

August 31: AD 18 Special General Election



Former AD 18 Assemblymember [Rob Bonta](#) was appointed to Attorney General by Governor Newsom and confirmed by the Legislature on April 22.

On June 29, nine candidates ran in a special primary election for District 18. No candidate received more than 50% of the vote, therefore the top two candidates will be voted on in the Aug 31 special general election. They are [Mia Bonta](#) (Rob Bonta's wife) and [Janani Ramachandran](#).

Mia Bonta is [endorsed by East Bay Animal PAC](#), and likely holds similar values to Rob Bonta, who has a PawPAC straight-A record. Janani Ramachandran is listed in the Progressive Voter Guide, with environmental justice as one of her core causes. As of August 14, Bonta had spent \$1 million in campaign funds to Ramachandran's \$244K.

Links:

[SOS AD 18 Special Election page](#)
[Courage California Candidate Forum](#)

Because we have not personally interviewed the candidates, an endorsement would not be appropriate. The number of special elections this year is off the charts—and PawPAC needs more human power.

Love animals? Got time?

PawPAC needs a volunteer who's dedicated to news, especially California news. Could that be you? Please call or email if you'd like to fill that niche.

Write to PawPAC



DONATE



Your donation to PawPAC will help to defray our expenses and build a fund to elect humane candidates—not to salaries or overhead. You are also assured that corporate interests will never influence our mission or endorsements, because PawPAC is 100% volunteer-powered.

If money is short, try *time*. PawPAC needs volunteers to help raise California's accountability to all nonhuman animals.

Contact us!

It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.

— Mahatma Gandhi