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Hispanic Businesses Lead the Next Economic Era

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The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC) will host its 47th Annual Statewide Convention from August 19 to 21, 2026. The Oakland Marriott City Center will be the epicenter of California's economic future in the vibrant city of Oakland. This premier event is the largest gathering of Hispanic and emerging small businesses, business and corporate leaders, and elected and community leaders in the Western United States, drawing more than 1,250 participants. This year's strategic theme, "Powering the Future," marks a definitive transition from economic recovery to proactive propulsion, highlighting how Hispanic and emerging businesses are driving California's economic trajectory, innovation, and job creation.

The Engine of California's Economy California is home to more than 1.8

million emerging and Hispanic-owned businesses. Together, they form a colossal economic force. Across the state and nation, Latino GDP is growing faster than that of many developed countries. This statistic is not merely a marker of growth; it is clear evidence that the Hispanic business community is no longer merely participating in the market—it is actively driving it.

"Powering the Future" is both a celebration of this economic strength and a strategic call to action. After nearly five decades of advocacy, the CHCC draws on its 47-year legacy to shape what comes next. The organization's focus remains steadfast on advocating for legislative and policy changes that protect small businesses, promote economic equity, and advance a diverse supply chain.

Leadership in Innovation and California's Economy

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Las Empresas Hispanas Lideran la Próxima Era Económica

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La Cámara de Comercio Hispana de California (CHCC, por sus siglas en inglés) celebrará su 47.ª Convención Anual Estatal del 19 al 21 de agosto de 2026. El Oakland Marriott City Center será el epicentro del futuro económico de California en la vibrante ciudad de Oakland. Este magno evento es la mayor concentración de empresas hispanas y pequeñas empresas emergentes, líderes empresariales y corporativos, así como líderes electos y comunidades en el oeste de los Estados Unidos, atrayendo a más de 1,250 participantes. El tema estratégico de este año, "Impulsando el Futuro", marca una transición definitiva desde la recuperación económica hacia una propulsión proactiva, destacando cómo las empresas hispanas y emergentes están impulsando la trayectoria económica, la innovación y la creación de empleo en California.

El Motor de la Economía de California

California alberga a más de 1.8 millones de empresas emergentes y de propiedad de hispanos. Juntas, constituyen una fuerza económica colosal. A lo largo del estado y de la nación, el PIB latino está creciendo más rápido que el de muchos países desarrollados. Esta estadística no es meramente un indicador de crecimiento; es una prueba clara de que la comunidad empresarial hispana ya no solo participa en el mercado, sino que lo impulsa activamente.

"Impulsando el Futuro" es tanto una celebración de esta fortaleza económica

como un llamado estratégico a la acción. Tras casi cinco décadas de labor de defensa y representación, la CHCC aprovecha su legado de 47 años para dar forma a lo que viene a continuación. El enfoque de la organización se mantiene firme en la defensa de cambios legislativos y normativos que protejan a las pequeñas empresas, promuevan la equidad económica y fomenten una cadena de suministro diversa.

Liderazgo en Innovación y la Economía de California

Un pilar fundamental de la convención de este año es el significado literal y estratégico de la palabra "Impulsando". A medida que California continúa liderando a la nación en la transición hacia las energías renovables y la tecnología sostenible, las pequeñas empresas diversas se están posicionando en el centro de la economía verde y el desarrollo de infraestructura.

Simultáneamente, las empresas emergentes están siendo pioneras en avances tecnológicos. Desde la integración de la Inteligencia Artificial (IA) y la ejecución de transformaciones digitales hasta la implementación de soluciones modernas y resilientes para la cadena de suministro, las empresas emergentes y de propiedad hispana están moldeando el panorama empresarial del mañana. Los módulos de talleres de la convención proporcionarán a los participantes asistencia técnica práctica y herramientas estratégicas para seguir siendo altamente competitivos en este mercado global que evoluciona rápidamente.

Ver **HISPANAS** Page 3



Blend Images - Mark Edward Atkinson/Tetra images with Getty Images

No permita que el fraude y las estafas condicionen sus vacaciones de verano

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Cuando haga sus planes de viaje de verano este año, o tal vez ya haya salido a la carretera o esté de camino al aeropuerto, una cosa que debe tener en cuenta; mantenerse financieramente atento al planear sus vacaciones.

La industria de viajes y eventos es especialmente susceptible a fraude y estafas. Ya que la gente está buscando ofertas en lugares poco conocidos, en donde podrían haber actores malintencionados que buscan quedarse con su dinero. Una vez que los viajeros planean el viaje de sus sueños, procurando cuidadosamente el uso de sus fondos,

los estafadores estarán preparados para tomarlos.

JPMorganChase le ofrece estos consejos para ayudarlo a evitar las estafas de viaje más recientes y comunes para que pueda relajarse y disfrutar de su viaje.

Estafas de alquiler

Ha encontrado una gran casa en un sitio web de alquiler vacacional y ha enviado un correo electrónico a el propietario a través del sitio web. Es posible que haya recibido una llamada del "titular", quien le pidió que enviara su depósito a través de Zelle u otra aplicación de igual a igual. El "propietario"

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AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA SOBRE EL BORRADOR DEL PLAN REGIONAL DE TRANSPORTE 2026/ESTRATEGIA DE COMUNIDADES SOSTENIBLES BORRADOR DEL PROGRAMA FEDERAL DE MEJORAMIENTO DEL TRANSPORTE 2026, Y EL CORRESPONDIENTE BORRADOR DEL ANÁLISIS DE CONFORMIDAD

POR MEDIO DEL PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que el Consejo de Gobiernos de San Joaquin (SJCOG) llevará a cabo una segunda audiencia pública el 9 de julio de 2026, a la ~~12:00 PM~~ 1:00 PM durante la reunión Ejecutiva en el edificio de oficinas de SJCOG ubicado en 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202, con respecto al Borrador del RTP/SCS 2026, el Borrador del Programa Federal de Mejoramiento del Transporte 2027 (2027 FTIP), y el correspondiente Borrador del Análisis de Conformidad de la Calidad del Aire para el 2027 FTIP. Los enlaces virtuales y la información adicional del aviso público se pueden encontrar en la página web de avisos públicos de SJCOG: <https://www.sjcog.org/270/Press-Releases-Hearings-Public-Notices>. El propósito de las audiencias públicas es recibir comentarios públicos sobre estos documentos:

- El RTP/SCS 2026 es una estrategia coordinada de transporte/uso del suelo a largo plazo para satisfacer las necesidades de transporte del Condado de San Joaquin hasta el año 2049.
- El FTIP 2027 es una lista a corto plazo de gastos de mejoras de capital y operacionales que utilizan fondos federales y estatales para proyectos de transporte en el Condado de San Joaquin durante los próximos cuatro años.
- Este aviso público también satisface los requisitos del programa de proyectos (POP) del Programa de Fórmula para Áreas Urbanizadas, Sección 5307, de la Administración Federal de Tránsito (FTA). Si no se reciben comentarios sobre el POP propuesto, el programa de tránsito propuesto (financiado con fondos FTA 5307) será el programa final.
- El correspondiente Análisis de Conformidad contiene la documentación para respaldar una determinación de que el FTIP 2027 y el RTP/SCS 2026 cumplen con los requisitos de conformidad de la calidad del aire para ozono y material particulado.

Las personas con discapacidades pueden llamar a Vanessa Gallegos (209-235-0600) de SJCOG (con aviso previo de 3 días hábiles) para solicitar ayudas auxiliares necesarias para participar en la audiencia pública. Los servicios de interpretación están disponibles (con aviso previo de 3 días hábiles) para participantes que hablen cualquier idioma con servicios profesionales de interpretación disponibles.

Un período de revisión y comentarios públicos de 55 días comenzó el viernes, 12 de junio de 2026, y concluirá el jueves, 6 de agosto de 2026, a las 4:00 PM para el RTP/SCS 2026.

Un período concurrente de comentarios de 30 días para el FTIP 2027 y el documento de conformidad del FTIP 2027 comenzó el martes, 07 de julio de 2026, y concluirá el jueves, 6 de agosto de 2026, a las 4:00 PM.

Los borradores de los documentos están disponibles para revisión en la oficina de SJCOG, ubicada en 555 E. Weber, Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202, en bibliotecas públicas y en el sitio web de SJCOG en <https://www.sjcog.org/710/2026-Draft-RTPSCS-Update> y <https://www.sjcog.org/110/Federal-Transportation-Improvement-Progr>.

Los comentarios públicos son bienvenidos en las audiencias o pueden presentarse por escrito, en persona, por correo postal o por correo electrónico a Edith Verdin en la dirección indicada abajo antes de las 4 PM del jueves, 6 de agosto de 2026.

Después de considerar los comentarios, los documentos serán considerados para adopción mediante resolución por el Consejo de Gobiernos de San Joaquin en una reunión programada regularmente que se llevará a cabo el 27 de agosto de 2026, a las 4:00 PM. Luego, los documentos se presentarán a las agencias estatales y federales para su aprobación.

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Hispanas

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damente.

Sucesión y Preparación de la Próxima Generación

La red de la CHCC, que abarca a más de 130 cámaras locales y asociaciones empresariales, está impulsando el futuro y también requiere de una planificación de sucesión deliberada. La convención está diseñada para inspirar y equipar a la próxima generación de emprendedores de la Generación Z y Millennials. A través de programas educativos, desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y mentorías focalizadas, la CHCC asegura que su legado de representación permanezca vibrante, relevante y bien preparado para apoyar a los líderes empresariales del mañana.

"Este año, estamos profundizando nuestro impacto para alimentar la economía de California a través de la innovación y el crecimiento con propósito", afirmó Julian Cañete, Presidente y CEO de la CHCC. "Juntos, nos levantamos con un impacto duradero".

Una Agenda Dinámica de Tres Días La convención está diseñada para facilitar el networking de alto impacto, la contratación directa y una celebración de la defensa empresarial:

Miércoles, 19 de agosto: El impulso comienza con el Torneo Anual de Golf de la Fundación CHCC, seguido por el Almuerzo de Comercio Internacional, la Mesa Redonda de CEOs del Presidente y la Recepción de Bienvenida "Sabor a Oakland".

Jueves, 20 de agosto: El día se inaugura con una Sesión General de Desa-

yuno, seguida de la apertura oficial de la Expo de Pequeñas Empresas y talleres interactivos. Un punto destacado del día es el Almuerzo Empresarial Hispano y las sesiones de emparejamiento comercial (Business Matchmaking) dirigidas a conectar directamente a los propietarios de pequeñas empresas con compradores corporativos y gubernamentales. La noche concluye con la vibrante Recepción White Party "Noche Tropical".

Viernes, 21 de agosto: El último día presenta el muy esperado Almuerzo de la Latina Empresaria, que destaca el liderazgo y el espíritu emprendedor de las mujeres. Durante todo el día se llevarán a cabo paneles de discusión de alto nivel, talleres y sesiones de Business Matchmaking. La convención culmina con la Recepción del Presidente de la Junta Directiva y el prestigioso Banquete de Premios de la Gala de la CHCC, donde se celebrará el ingenio excepcional y la dedicación de las cámaras locales, los líderes comunitarios y los socios de la CHCC en toda California.

La 47.ª Convención Anual Estatal de la CHCC ofrece un retorno de inversión inigualable para patrocinadores y asistentes, brindando una plataforma única para interactuar con el segmento de mercado de más rápido crecimiento en California. Para registrarse, asegurar patrocinios o explorar la agenda, visite el portal oficial de la convención en www.chcc2026.com o comuníquese a gema@cahcc.com o al (916) 444-2221. económico de California.

Hispanic

continued from Front Page

A core pillar of this year's convention is the literal and strategic significance of the word "Powering". As California continues to lead the nation in transitioning to renewable energy and sustainable technology, diverse small businesses are positioning themselves at the center of the green economy and infrastructure development.

Simultaneously, emerging businesses are pioneering technological advancements. From integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and executing digital transformations to implementing modern, resilient supply chain solutions, Hispanic-owned and emerging enterprises are shaping the business landscape of tomorrow. The convention's workshop tracks will provide participants with hands-on technical assistance and strategic tools to remain highly competitive in this rapidly evolving global market.

Succession and Preparing the Next Generation

The CHCC network, which encompasses over 130 local chambers and business associations, is powering the future and also requires deliberate succession planning. The convention is designed to inspire and equip the next generation of Gen Z and Millennial entrepreneurs. Through educational programming, workforce development, and targeted mentorship, the CHCC ensures its legacy of advocacy remains vibrant, relevant, and well-prepared to support tomorrow's business leaders.

"This year, we are deepening our impact to fuel California's economy through innovation and purposeful growth," said Julian Canete, CHCC President & CEO. "Together, we rise with lasting impact."

A Dynamic Three-Day Agenda

The convention is designed to facilitate high-impact networking, direct contracting, and celebratory advocacy:

Wednesday, August 19: The momentum begins with the CHCC Foundation Annual Golf Tournament, followed by the International Trade Luncheon, the President's CEO Roundtable, and the "Taste of Oakland" Welcome Reception.

Thursday, August 20: The day opens with a Breakfast General Session, followed by the official opening of the Small Business Expo and interactive workshops. A highlight of the day is the Hispanic Business Luncheon and targeted Business Matchmaking sessions that connect small business owners directly with corporate and government buyers. The evening concludes with the vibrant "Noche Tropical" White Party Reception.

Friday, August 21: The final day features the highly anticipated Latina Empresaria Luncheon, highlighting women's leadership and entrepreneurship. High-level panel discussions, work-

shops, and Business Matchmaking sessions run throughout the day. The convention culminates with the Chairman's Reception and the prestigious CHCC Gala's Awards Banquet, celebrating the exceptional ingenuity and dedication of local chambers, community leaders, and CHCC Partners across California.

"Oakland perfectly embodies the entrepreneurial spirit and diversity that the CHCC is committed to advancing," remarked Veronica Corna, CHCC Chairman of the Board.

Join the Movement

The CHCC's 47th Annual State-wide Convention offers an unparalleled return on investment for sponsors and attendees, providing a unique platform to engage with California's fastest-growing market segment. To register, secure sponsorships, or explore the agenda, visit the official convention portal at www.chcc2026.com or contact gema@cahcc.com or (916) 444-2221.

Together, we are powering California's economic future.

Non-profit, low-income housing developer to seek permanent CEO

STOCKTON, CA. - (June 30, 2026) - Visionary Home Builders of California has named Justin Llata and Annette Sanchez as interim co-Chief Executive Officers to lead day-to day business operations at the non-profit, affordable housing developer. Llata and Sanchez each have previously served in executive roles for Visionary Home Builders, and as interim co-CEOs will again serve together specializing in development/finance and operations/

human resources roles, respectively. The Board of Directors will oversee an independent national search for a permanent CEO to replace Carol J. Ornelas, who separated from the company Monday. Llata previously served with Visionary for more than 20 years in various roles, most recently as chief operating officer from 2011 to 2020 and chief real estate development officer from 2020 to 2023.

Sanchez served as chief operating

officer for Visionary from 2020 to 2024, following a 20-year tenure at El Concilio, the Central Valley's largest Latino-led nonprofit community service agency. She most recently ran as a candidate for City of Stockton Councilmember, District 1 in the June 2026 primary election.

Ornelas led Visionary for more than 40 years, overseeing construction and rehabilitation of more than 1,400 units of rental housing and over 900

homes for first-time buyers. VHB's Homeownership and Rental Center has assisted thousands of families through foreclosure processes and loan modifications.

"With these passionate, experienced and well-known leaders stepping to the helm once again, we will remain true to our founding mission to create and advocate for healthy, vibrant and safe communities throughout this leadership transition," Jimenez added.



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Vacaciones

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a menudo le presionará para que envíe un depósito para garantizar el alquiler de la propiedad, diciendo que hay mucha demanda, y puede solicitar trasladar la conversación del sitio web oficial a una aplicación de mensajería privada.

A medida que se acerca su viaje, usted puede ponerse en contacto para confirmar los detalles o asumir que todo está bien y llegar directamente al lugar que reservó. Ahí es cuando descubre que está reservada por alguien más, no está disponible para alquilar o no existe en absoluto.

El anuncio que vio podría haber sido falso, o un número de teléfono falso se publicó en un anuncio real, y el verdadero propietario no tiene ni idea de su reserva. De cualquier modo, está estancado sin alojamiento, sin su depósito y con pocas posibilidades de recuperar su dinero.

La mayoría de los sitios oficiales de alquiler de propiedades ofrecen garantías contra el fraude, pero solo si paga y se comunica con los propietarios a través del sitio web oficial. Para evitar estafas de alojamiento, intente ver los lugares en persona si es posible, lea las opiniones de otros viajeros y pague a través de la plataforma oficial. Enviar depósitos a través de giros electrónicos o aplicaciones de igual a igual es como enviar dinero en efectivo; una vez que lo envíe, es posible que no pueda recuperarlo.

Viajes “gratuitos”

A menos que haya ganado un concurso o sorteo legítimo, e incluso esos deben ser examinados, es cerca de imposible encontrar vacaciones gratuitas. Si recibe una llamada, mensaje de texto, correo electrónico u otra notificación de que ha ganado unas vacaciones gratis, puede ser una estafa, especialmente si no recuerda haber participado en un sorteo.

Esté atento a las llamadas o mensajes de texto automatizados que ofrecen vacaciones gratis u “ofertas de vacaciones”. Es posible que no haya ningún paquete de vacaciones disponible, o se le pedirá que pague cargos de procesamiento, impuestos y otros costos para reclamar su viaje “gratis”, lo que podría incluir alojamiento condicionado.

Si usted participa en un sorteo y le dicen que es el ganador, no deberían pedirle que envíe dinero para reclamar su premio. La Comisión Federal de Comercio es un buen recurso para obtener información para reconocer la legitimidad o fraudulencia de sorteos.

Estafas de vuelo

Si se entera de un vuelo chárter u otra oferta de vuelo privado a un destino, a veces incluyendo una visita o una estancia en hotel, tenga mucho cuidado. Demasiados viajeros potenciales descubren después de pagar su dinero que el vuelo, y a veces todo el viaje no existe.

El Departamento de Transporte de

EE. UU. mantiene listas actualizadas de vuelos chárter aprobados para que pueda asegurarse de que la empresa que está considerando es legítima.

Estafas de entradas para conciertos/eventos

La industria de las entradas para eventos es con frecuencia foco para los estafadores. Es posible que encuentre una oferta increíble para un espectáculo agotado en las redes sociales, envía dinero al vendedor y nunca vuelve a escuchar de ellos. No solo no tiene entradas para el evento, sino que tampoco hay forma de recuperar su dinero.

Aunque algunos vendedores de redes sociales pueden ser legítimos, las mejores fuentes para las ofertas de entradas son sitios de reventa verificados que manejan transacciones y garantizan la autenticidad. Si algo sale mal, hay un rastreo digital que puede ayudarle a recuperar su dinero.

Recordatorios

Incluso las personas más cautelosas pueden ser víctimas de una estafa bien ejecutada, recuerde estos consejos para proteger sus planes de vacaciones.

Zelle y otras aplicaciones de pago de igual a igual deben reservarse para familiares, amigos y empresas que conozca y en las que confíe. Trate sus transacciones como dinero en efectivo: una vez que los estafadores obtengan el dinero, es posible que no lo recupere.

Los estafadores están publicitando en las redes sociales y en los mercados en línea. Siempre que sea posible, compre a través de sitios web oficiales

y tenga cuidado con las ofertas que parecen demasiado buenas para ser ciertas antes de enviar dinero.

Los estafadores pueden falsificar la identificación de la persona que llama, los correos electrónicos y los mensajes de texto se muestren como mensajes de su banco u otras empresas. Si alguna vez no está seguro, finalice la conversación y póngase en contacto con la empresa directamente a través de su sitio web oficial o llame al número que aparece al dorso de su tarjeta de banco.

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**TENEMOS
EL PODER**

Becerra, el principal candidato en California, afirma que el estado no se arrodillará ante Trump

Por Selen Ozturk

Xavier Becerra, ex fiscal general del estado y secretario del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de EE. UU. (HHS), quien actualmente lidera las encuestas en la contienda por la gobernación de 2026, se está posicionando como el candidato anti-Trump con más experiencia en la carrera.

En una rueda de prensa organizada por American Community Media, presentó una plataforma centrada en limitar la aplicación de las leyes federales de inmigración, defender la cobertura de Medi-Cal para los residentes indocumentados y aprovechar la infraestructura política de California contra los abusos ilegales de una segunda administración Trump. Becerra argumentó que su trayectoria a nivel estatal y federal le proporciona herramientas y conocimientos institucionales de los que carecen sus oponentes.

Inmigración: "Lucharemos cuando sea necesario".

En materia de inmigración, Becerra describió las operaciones del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) de la administración Trump como una "fuerza mercenaria" y se comprometió a utilizar los tribunales de California para moderar a

los agentes federales que operan en el estado.

"Aunque el ICE es una agencia federal, debe obedecer la Constitución. Debe respetar las leyes estatales cuando actúa fuera de su jurisdicción", dijo, "así que nos aseguraremos de que nuestras familias inmigrantes sepan que están protegidas".

Una investigación de 2023 reveló que, durante el mandato de Becerra en el HHS, la agencia relajó las medidas de protección vigentes desde hace mucho tiempo, incluidas las verificaciones de antecedentes y las revisiones de expedientes destinadas a proteger a los niños de la trata, y perdió el contacto con un tercio de los niños migrantes no acompañados que fueron trasladados desde albergues superpoblados.

Becerra no abordó directamente ese tema. En cambio, hizo referencia a su trayectoria durante el primer mandato de Trump, cuando era fiscal general del estado: cuando la administración presionó a las fuerzas del orden de California para que participaran en redadas de inmigración, Becerra se negó, asumió la demanda resultante, la ganó en los tribunales y posteriormente recuperó 57 millones de dólares en recursos que la administración había retenido como



represalia.

"Los llevamos a juicio y recuperamos nuestros 57 millones de dólares", dijo. "Colaboraremos con ellos cuando sea necesario, pero lucharemos cuando haga falta. Podemos mantener una relación con el gobierno federal cuando sea preciso, pero no nos doblegaremos".

En relación con un memorando del Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos publicado el 22 de mayo que podría obligar a la mayoría de los solicitantes de la tarjeta verde a abandonar Estados Unidos y presentar su solicitud desde el extranjero, Becerra afirmó estar "absolutamente en contra", describiendo la política como parte de un patrón más amplio que ataca a los inmigrantes independientemente de su estatus legal.

"Se trata de personas que cumplen los requisitos para estar aquí, lo que significa que deben tener un buen historial", dijo. "Esto demuestra una vez más que Donald Trump nunca tuvo la intención de perseguir únicamente a los criminales y a quienes causaban daño. Simplemente persigue a cualquier inmigrante, a cualquiera que no se parezca a él".

Becerra también se comprometió a oponerse a los centros de detención de inmigrantes privados con fines de lucro en California y a aplicar las normas estatales a cualquier instalación de este tipo que opere dentro del estado.

Atención sanitaria: "Merece tener acceso".

El tema de la atención médica fue objeto de algunos de los intercambios más detallados de la sesión informativa.

Cuando se le pidió que respondiera a las acusaciones de sus oponentes de que se había retractado de su apoyo al sistema de pagador único, Becerra rechazó esta interpretación, citando su copatrocinio en el Congreso en 1993 de un proyecto de ley de Medicare para todos, y su trabajo para ampliar la Ley de Cuidado de Salud Asequible y la inscripción en Medicaid a un récord de 24,2 millones de personas cubiertas a través de mercados privados.

«Nunca me he echado atrás, y esa

es una representación precisa de mi trayectoria», afirmó. «Es una distorsión que algunos de mis oponentes llevan tiempo difundiendo, pero he sido coherente a lo largo de mi carrera en el servicio público».

Antes de las elecciones, una declaración en el sitio web de la campaña de Becerra que lo describía como un "defensor del sistema de pagador único" fue eliminada y reemplazada por un plan de 12 puntos centrado en financiar la atención preventiva, reducir el despilfarro, disminuir los costos de los medicamentos y apoyar a los afiliados a Medi-Cal y CalFresh cuya cobertura se ve amenazada por los recortes federales.

Respecto a la cobertura de Medi-Cal para residentes indocumentados, Becerra argumentó que el cálculo de costos favorece el mantenimiento de la cobertura, ya que los residentes sin seguro no dejan de necesitar atención médica, sino que recurren a las salas de emergencia, el punto de atención más costoso, y los costos resultantes son absorbidos por los contribuyentes de California.

"Es lo fiscalmente responsable, porque en el momento en que Donald Trump les quite la cobertura de Medi-Cal a esos 3 millones de californianos, ¿saben qué? No dejarán de usar los servicios de salud", dijo. "Si trabajas duro en California, no me importa de dónde vengas. Si trabajas duro, mereces tener acceso a la atención médica que necesitas".

Extendió su argumento a los proveedores, advirtiendo que la baja masiva de afiliados acabaría obligando a los hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios a cerrar cuando se agotaran los reembolsos.

"Los médicos, hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios, si saben que la persona que acude a sus instalaciones tiene seguro médico, saben que recibirán el reembolso", afirmó. "Si esas personas no tienen seguro, saben que, tarde o temprano, tendrán que cerrar sus puertas porque no pueden ofrecer servicios gratuitos".

Becerra describió la crisis de los hospitales rurales de California — más de la mitad operan ahora con pérdidas, mientras que 13 corren

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California has a top-ranked economy. It's also one of the nation's most unequal

By Dan Walters

California's next governor — most likely former Attorney General Xavier Becerra — will inherit a raft of knotty, unresolved issues.

Some, such as the high rate of homelessness and very high cost of living, predate current Gov. Gavin Newsom. Others, such as the chronic multibillion-dollar budget deficit and stubbornly high unemployment rate, arose more recently.

A perennial question about such issues is whether they are unique to or more pronounced in California than other states. Comparisons are difficult because definitions vary and comparable data are difficult to track down.

By coincidence, however, two recent academic studies shed light on how California stands vis-a-vis the nation's 49 other states.

One is called "State of the States," an offshoot of a "State of the Nation" research project sponsored by Tulane University's Murphy Institute that aims to cut through partisan chatter and define the nation's most cogent issues.

The study found "California ranks higher, on average, on the topics of Economy (1), Trust (3), Mental Health (3), and Children and Families (3), but lower on Work and Labor Force (48), Inequality (49), and Environment (50). California also outperforms its West neighbors in 3 of the 14 topics and is improving

over time on 9 of the 31 measures."

Although California's political figures, most notably Newsom, like to depict the state as a leader on socioeconomic equity and environmental protection, it's at or near the bottom on both issues. It's also close to the bottom on educational achievement, volunteerism and freedom of the press.

Texas, one of the states often compared to California, generally does better on the issues where California has fallen behind, such as freedom of the press. However, it too, has some glaring deficiencies, such as environment and voter participation.

One of the widest disparities is residents' satisfaction with their current lives. Texas ranks near the top while California is well below median in that category.

The second study comes from the Berkeley Economy & Society Initiative, a project at UC Berkeley backed by the Hewlett Foundation. It issued two in a series of reports on California's high cost of living.

The first report declares "California is less affordable and poorer than it should be given the strength of our economy," and "is systematically more expensive" than other places with similar median incomes.

"Unaffordability doesn't just create and worsen poverty," it noted. "People are voting against California's high costs with



their feet. Throughout its history, California has been a magnet for migrants from other states chasing opportunity. Not any longer.

"Since the 2008 recession, California has experienced sustained domestic out-migration. The trend has accelerated in more recent years. Between 2020 and 2024, California had the second-lowest net migration to/from other states, as a percentage of the population, following only New York. We present evidence indicating that unaffordability is a primary cause of California's migration inversion."

The project's second report delves into the causes of unaffordability, declaring, "In our analysis, the foremost driver of high costs in California is a policy regime that makes it difficult to build the physical infrastructure we need to deliver housing, energy, water, and other essen-

tials.

"Growth restrictions drive unaffordability primarily by reducing housing supply and increasing housing costs. They also contribute to high energy and transportation costs by increasing the price tag on critical public infrastructure — creating downstream costs for consumers."

The report also lists a series of steps California could take to attack unaffordability, including embracing factory-built housing and innovative financing models to spur affordable housing the state needs.

This is just a brief overview of what the two research projects have to say about California's issues compared to other states. If the next governor and legislators are serious about improving the state's standing, they should dive into the details.

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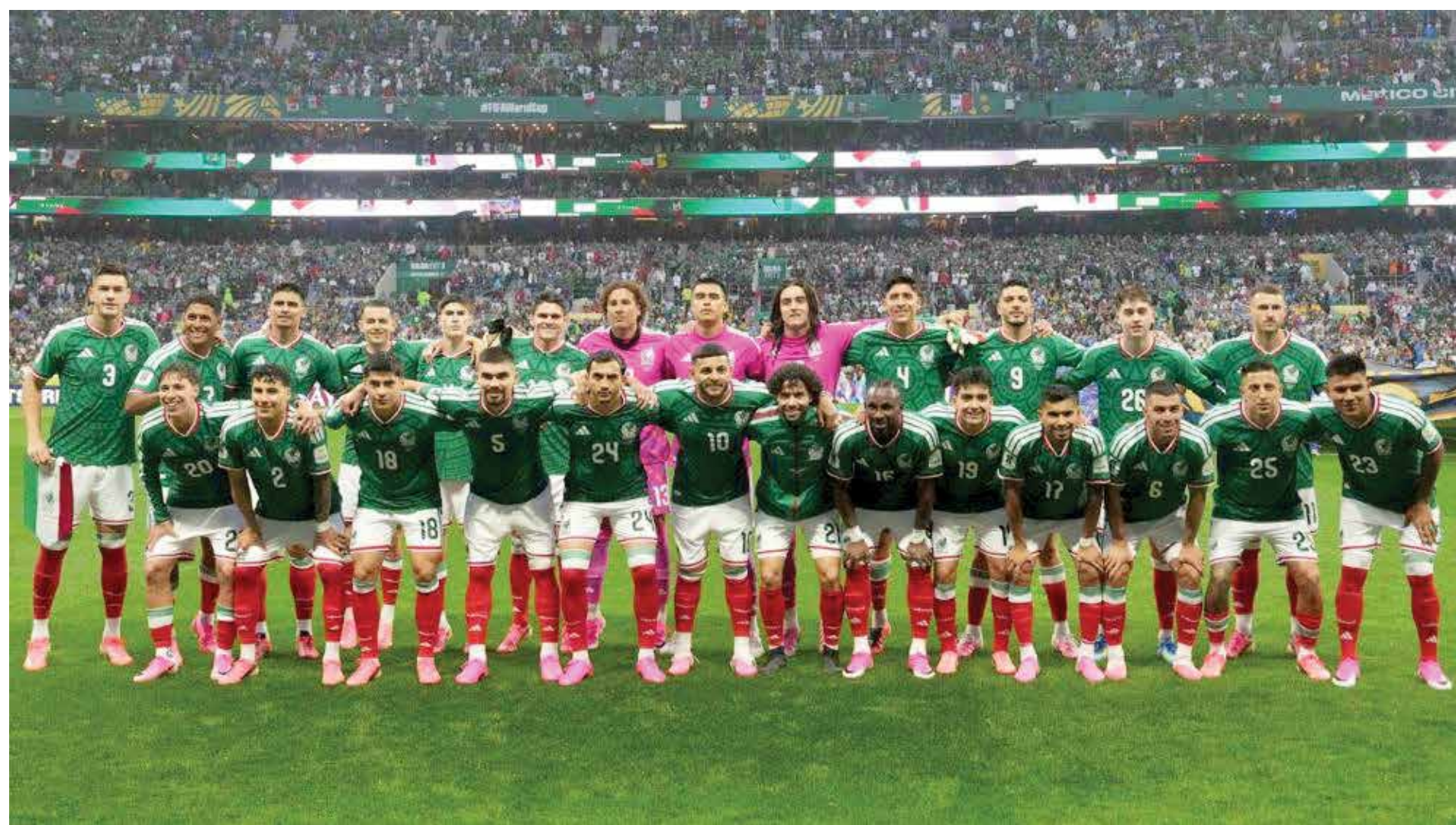


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Opinion: Mexico may have lost but it won the hearts of the world

By Denise Florez

On Sunday, Mexico played against England in the knockout round of 16 of the World Cup. Even though it maintained control of the ball for the majority of the game and came really close to going further, it lost 2-3.

What happened? Did coach Javier Aguirre make a mistake when he took out Julián Quiñones, who scored four goals total in the previous matches and tied with Mexico's top scorers? I'm not a sports expert; I pop in to the World Cup and cheer for Mexico and whatever underdog

teams are out there every four years, but I was puzzled when Quiñones stepped off the field. Why didn't he add Armando "Hormiga" González, who is a top scorer?

We may never know. But I'm still proud of the team. I'm proud of Quiñones, who is not afraid to kick the ball from wherever he stands. I'm proud of Gilberto Mora, who at 17 is one of the best midfielders Mexico has ever had. I'm proud of Raúl Jiménez, who fought against all adversity- a serious skull fracture, the loss of his father and still scored three goals for the team. The whole team did an amazing job and I know all of Mexico's fans are with you. We know you fought until the last second.

Until that last second, millions of Mexico's fans held on to the hope. "Y si si?" was in the lips of everyone after a stellar, historic group phase where no team scored against Mexico and the team won all the matches.

For the first time in the history of the World Cup, Mexico won all three of their first matches.

That alone is an accomplishment, and personally, I've never felt such joy and pride. It was always one win, one tie and one loss. I expected

the same, but it didn't matter. I would have still worn the shirt.

Sometimes, when they move on to the next stage, they usually lose. But we got five games this time. That's more than ever. Sure, there were more teams this year and they added their hydration pauses to add more advertising time. The FIFA World Cup has doubled its earnings and still wants more. Sure, there are plenty of items to criticize about the event and I'm glad that the parents still looking for their loved ones were able to have some amount of platform in Mexico, even if others think it's not the time or place.

But this time the world got to experience México Mágico, the warmth and energy that Mexican people have and the love of the game. Mexico hosted Iran's team, who said they were very grateful for Mexico's hospitality.

Mexico may still need a lot more to be on par with European teams. It may never get there. But the love and the energy that Mexico shares with its team will never be equaled and Mexico as host of the World Cup won the hearts of all the fans and teams that played and stayed in the country.

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California Front-Runner Becerra Says State Won't 'Take a Knee' to Trump

By Selen Ozturk

Xavier Becerra, the former state attorney general and U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary currently leading polls in the 2026 gubernatorial race, is positioning himself as the race's most experienced anti-Trump candidate.

At an American Community Media briefing, he laid out a platform centered on constraining federal immigration enforcement, defending Medi-Cal coverage for undocumented residents and leveraging California's political infrastructure against illegal overreach by a second Trump administration. Becerra argued that his state and federal record gives him tools and institutional knowledge his opponents lack.

Immigration: 'We will fight when it's necessary'

On immigration, Becerra described the Trump administration's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations as a "mercenary force" and pledged to use California courts to moderate federal agents operating in the state.

"ICE, while it's a federal agency, still must obey the Constitution. It still must respect state laws when it goes beyond its jurisdiction," he said, "so we'll make sure our immigrant families know that they are protected."

A 2023 investigation found that during Becerra's tenure at HHS, the agency relaxed longstanding safeguards — including background checks and file reviews meant to protect children from trafficking — and lost contact with one-third of the unaccompanied migrant children moved out of overcrowded shelters.

Becerra did not directly address that issue. Instead, he pointed to his record from Trump's first term, while he was state attorney general: When the administration pressured California's law enforcement to participate in immigration raids, Becerra refused, absorbed the resulting lawsuit, won it in court and later recovered \$57 million in resources the administration had withheld in retaliation.

"We took them on in court, and we got our \$57 million back," he said. "We will partner with them where we must, but we will fight when it's necessary. We can have a relationship with the federal government as we must, but we will not take a knee."

On a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services memo released May 22 that may force most green card applicants to leave the U.S. and apply from abroad, Becerra said he was "absolutely against it," describing the policy as part of a broader pattern targeting immigrants regardless of legal standing.

"These are people who are qualifying to be here, which means they have to have a good record," he said. "It just once again proves that Donald Trump never intended to go after only the criminals and the people who were doing harm. He's just after anyone who's an immigrant, anyone who doesn't look like him."

Becerra also pledged to oppose private, for-profit immigration detention in California and to apply state standards to any such facilities operating within the state.

Healthcare: 'You deserve to have access'

Healthcare drew some of the briefing's most detailed exchanges. Asked to respond to opponents' charges that he had retreated from support for single-payer, Becerra rejected this framing, citing a 1993 congressional co-sponsorship of a Medicare for All bill, and his work expanding the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid enrollment to a record-high 24.2 million people covered through private marketplaces.

"I never backed away, and so that's an accurate representation of where I have been," he said. "It's a distortion that some of my opponents have been peddling for some time, but I've been consistent throughout my career in public service."

Ahead of elections, a statement on Becerra's campaign website describing him as an "advocate for single payer" has been removed and replaced with a 12-point plan focusing on funding preventive care, reducing waste, lowering drug costs and supporting Medi-Cal and CalFresh enrollees whose coverage is threatened by federal cuts.

On Medi-Cal coverage for undocumented residents, Becerra argued that the cost calculus favors keeping the coverage, as uninsured residents do not stop needing medical care but turn to emergency rooms, the most expensive point of delivery, with the resulting costs absorbed by California taxpayers.

"It's the fiscally responsible thing to do, because the moment Donald Trump kicks those 3 million Californians off of their Medi-Cal, guess what, they don't stop using health care," he said. "If you work hard in California, it makes no difference to me where you come from. If you're working hard, you deserve to have access to the health care that you need."

He extended the argument to providers, warning that mass disenrollment would eventually force hospitals and community health centers to close when reimbursement dried up.

"The doctors, hospitals, community health centers, if they know that the person walking through their door is coming with insurance, they know that they will get reimbursed," he said. "If those people walking through their doors do not have insurance, those doctors, hospitals, community health centers know that at some point they're going to have to start closing their doors because they can't do business for free."

Becerra described the crisis of California's rural hospitals — over half now operate at a loss, while 13 are at risk of closure — as requiring a willingness to fight Washington for California's share of federal funding, a challenge that his time at HHS has prepared him to meet.

"I know how to squeeze every pos-



sible cent out of those federal resources, because I ran that agency," he said. "I know where the money is."

Under HHS, managing a budget larger than California's own, Becerra filed over 120 lawsuits against Trump's first administration, with an approximately 82% win rate among the 28 cases resolved.

On homelessness, Becerra pitched a prevention-first framework, arguing that keeping vulnerable residents housed before they reach crisis is far cheaper than the downstream cost of shelter and reentry for those already on the street.

"It costs so much more money to

pick someone off the street," he said, promising to work with families facing job loss or medical debt before eviction is unavoidable, and to expand only programs with positive measurable outcomes on this front. "I'm going to do everything I can to work with those families, find out what it takes to keep them housed rather than see them become homeless."

' Not a billionaire writing himself a check'

On his campaign finances, Becerra pushed back against comparisons of his own funders to those of billionaire rival Tom Steyer, who has drawn a record

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Voter ID Laws, Redistricting Could Sideline Millions Before Midterms, Advocates Warn

By Selen Ozturk

With the 2026 midterm elections months away, voting rights advocates warn that new voting laws and disputes over election processes could reduce participation among millions of minority, low-income, elderly, rural and first-time voters.

A recent Supreme Court ruling, *Calais v. Louisiana*, has already prompted states across the South to redraw congressional district lines in ways that eliminate majority-Black seats. Meanwhile, 36 states now require some form of ID at the polls, while local election battles that once seemed like regional issues are drawing national scrutiny.

Weakened federal voting protections

A 6-3 Supreme Court majority ruling issued April 29 by Justice Samuel Alito struck down Louisiana's congressional map containing two majority-Black districts. Voting rights groups say the decision effectively guts Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA) which prohibits voting procedures that dilute minority representation. (Blacks account for more than 30% of the state's population.)

The ruling's new standard requires plaintiffs to prove intentional racial discrimination — a nearly impossible burden compared to the previous standard of proving that a redistricting map gives Black voters less opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

In the weeks following the decision, several Southern states including Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina moved to redraw congressional maps — in some cases while mail-in voting for primary elections was already underway — explained Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), at a June 26 American Community Media briefing.

The changes have already eliminated “a number of majority-Black congressional seats in the South,” he continued. “This means that absent some huge wave of increased voting by voters of color, some of our long-standing Black congress members may lose their seats in November.”

A Fair Fight Action and Black Voters Matter Fund analysis found that up to 191 currently Democrat-held Southern state legislative districts could be redrawn as a result of *Calais* — including 127 Black-majority districts, more than half of all Black-majority districts in those states.

An earlier joint report estimated that the new Section 2 standard alone could secure 19 Republican House seats. Combined with Republicans' mid-decade redistricting efforts, the report projected a potential shift of 27 House seats — “enough to cement one-party control of the U.S. House for at least a generation.”

But at the federal level, “the president of the United States has no authority to regulate elections,” said Saenz. “Without congressional action ... his executive orders have no effect. This is why Trump is pushing so hard now to get federal legislation to require voter ID, to restrict the ability to cast a remote ballot and the like, but it would require congressional action.”

Millions without voting ID

As a more credible near-term threat, he pointed to the SAVE Act, which would require documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote, potentially stripping the effective ability to vote from the over 21 million Americans who lack ready access to documents like a passport or birth certificate.

While the act passed the House April 10 on a vote of 220-208, with the support of all Republicans and four Democrats, Senate passage would require seven Democratic votes, a threshold few analysts expect it to reach.

But even if passed, the measure could apply only to federal races, said Saenz, noting that implementing such a system nationwide would be “exorbitantly expensive.” It would also, he said, “consolidate federal with state and local elections in every state around the country,” resulting in “two sets of rules for one election.”

According to Saenz, the “greater danger” voters face is at the state and local levels. “The Supreme Court made Voting Rights Act challenges to such measures more difficult,” he noted, adding, “It's important that people be prepared to have a voter ID. Even if [the ID requirement] is being challenged in court. It may or may not be resolved before the election comes around.”

Roughly half of Americans don't have a passport, including 55% of registered Republican voters; nearly 21 million voting-age U.S. citizens lack a current driver's license; and another 29 million have licenses that do not reflect their current name or address.

Citizens of color are nearly four times more likely than white citizens to lack a valid, unexpired state ID, with Black and Hispanic Americans disproportionately affected.

“The ever-changing landscape of voter ID laws creates confusion for voters, who will often stay home rather than face shame or get turned away or intimidated for potentially not having the correct form of ID,” said Da Hae Kim, policy advocacy manager at national voting rights nonprofit VoteRiders.

Cost and access compound the problem.

“If you have a minimum wage job and it's \$7.25 an hour, and you need to pay about \$29 to get an ID — if it's a choice of putting food on the table or getting an up-to-date license — putting food on the table will likely take precedence,” Kim said, adding that rural residents frequently lack transportation to the offices where IDs are issued, and that natural disasters like floods and fire can leave many voters without any identification at all.

On the ground in Shasta County Annelise Pierce, founder and managing editor of the independent news service *Shasta Scout* — which covers a deeply conservative, majority-white rural county about 2.5 hours north of Sacramento — brought these national dynamics into a community-level focus.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, *Shasta Scout* saw the county's rightward political shift accelerate, amplified by new leaders in local government.

In early 2023, the county board voted to cut short its contract with electronic voting company Dominion Voting Systems in favor of hand-counting — a move the state blocked that fall with a quickly passed hand-counting ban.

The county registrar of voters, who oversaw 40 elections over nearly two decades, retired in mid-2024 “due to stress-related medical conditions, and eventually the board brought in a new registrar” — attorney Clint Curtis — who, Pierce said, “really marched in rhythm with these election activist complaints and started implementing a lot of changes in local election procedures.”

Among these changes was Measure B, brought forth by activists — some of them Curtis-appointed election staff — alleging local election fraud. The ballot measure, passed June 2, requires ID voting, eliminates most early voting, limits who can cast an absentee ballot, requires hand-counting of all ballots at the precinct level and severs local voter rolls from state oversight.

The state sued the county 10 days later, maintaining that implementing the measure would violate voting laws in California, a universal vote-by-mail ballot state. But in late June, an appeals court declined to review the suit, directing California to refile in a trial court instead and ahead of the county's July 2 primary certification date.

“You'd have to maintain two separate sets of voter rolls,” Pierce said, “one to comply with state and federal elections, and one for local elections.”

Pierce said the voting issues she has documented in Shasta have often stemmed less from deliberate intent than from inexperience and distrust of technology.

Curtis' decision to eliminate electronic poll-pad check-in systems, for instance, produced long lines and “actual disenfranchisement of voters because there were not enough line workers at the elections office to verify voters throughout the day,” she explained. Poll worker training gaps, meanwhile, left many workers without adequate preparation to help voters with disabilities.

Pierce noted that ahead of national midterm elections, Shasta County residents still don't know whether they'll need to show ID or have to vote in person, with only months remaining before voters head to the polls this November.

“Elections are about process and policy, but also about optics and perception, so the voters' own trust in what they're seeing,” she said, “is an important part of whether or not people choose to engage in elections at all.”

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Modesto, CA (June 23, 2026) On Saturday, August 15, 2026, community members are invited to join Community Hospice & Health Services Foundation for the 4th Annual Hops & Vines at The Haig & Isabel Berberian Patient Services Center, 4368 Spyras Way, Modesto. Guests will enjoy locally crafted beer and wine tastings, food, axe throwing, cornhole, live entertainment, and more. Tickets are \$65 per person and are available at hospiceheart.org.

Event proceeds benefit the patients, families, and programs of Community Hospice & Health Services, including Hospice Care, the Alexander Cohen Hospice House in Hughson, Camp Wokini Youth Grief Camp, Advanced Care Management- Palliative, and Bereavement Support for our hospice

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"Hops & Vines has become one of Modesto's most anticipated summer evenings. Every ticket purchased, every glass raised, helps us make sure no family in the Central Valley faces a life-changing journey alone." — Kristi Greenstreet-Hansen, Foundation Executive Director

Sponsorship and in-kind partnership opportunities are still available. Local breweries, wineries, food vendors, and businesses are invited to participate. Named sponsorship tiers range from \$500 to \$5,000. For sponsorship information, contact Jarod Smith at jarod.smith@hospiceheart.org or 209.672.5689.

For ticket or event information, visit hospiceheart.org or contact the Foundation at 209.578.6370.



Becerra

continúa en pág. 6

el riesgo de cerrar— como una situación que exige la voluntad de luchar contra Washington por la parte de los fondos federales que le corresponde a California, un desafío para el que su tiempo en el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos lo ha preparado.

"Sé cómo sacarle el máximo provecho a esos recursos federales, porque yo dirigí esa agencia", dijo. "Sé dónde está el dinero".

Bajo la dirección del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS), que gestionaba un presupuesto mayor que el de California, Becerra presentó más de 120 demandas contra la primera administración de Trump, con una tasa de éxito aproximada del 82% entre los 28 casos resueltos.

En lo que respecta a la falta de vivienda, Becerra propuso un enfoque que prioriza la prevención, argumentando que mantener a los residentes vulnerables con un techo antes de que lleguen a una situación de crisis es mucho más económico que el costo posterior del alojamiento y la reinserción para aquellos que ya viven en la calle.

"Rescatar a alguien de la calle cuesta muchísimo más dinero",

afirmó, prometiendo trabajar con familias que se enfrentan a la pérdida del empleo o a deudas médicas antes de que el desalojo sea inevitable, y ampliar únicamente los programas con resultados positivos y medibles en este ámbito. "Voy a hacer todo lo posible por trabajar con esas familias, averiguar qué se necesita para que conserven sus hogares en lugar de verlas quedarse sin techo".

"No se trata de un multimillonario que se extiende un cheque a sí mismo".

En cuanto a la financiación de su campaña, Becerra rechazó las comparaciones entre sus financiadores y los de su rival multimillonario, Tom Steyer, quien ha recaudado la cifra récord de 53 millones de dólares en gastos de oposición procedentes de "super PACs" respaldados por empresas y grupos empresariales.

Muchos de estos mismos grupos de interés han invertido más de 13 millones de dólares para apoyar a Becerra, entre ellos la Asociación Médica de California, contraria al sistema de pagador único, los bomberos de California, Planned Parenthood y los sindicatos. Entre los principales donantes corporativos se

encuentran PG&E, Airbnb, Meta, que aportó casi un millón de dólares, y Chevron, que donó medio millón.

"La donación promedio a mi campaña es de 59 dólares", dijo, refiriéndose a las contribuciones directas de la gente común. "No se trata de un multimillonario que se hace un cheque a sí mismo. Son personas como maestros, enfermeras y trabajadores sindicalizados quienes apoyan esta campaña y nos impulsan hacia la victoria".

"Como gobernador, voy a utilizar

al máximo todos los recursos del gobierno para proteger a las familias que eran como mis padres, que trabajaban muy duro, sin pedir mucho, solo con la esperanza de que eso les abriera las puertas a las oportunidades, si no a ellos, al menos a sus hijos", dijo.

"Estoy listo. No necesitaré ayuda cuando sea gobernador", añadió. "Mi trabajo es restaurar esa fe, reavivar ese sueño y hacer que la gente vuelva a creer".

El día de las elecciones es el 2 de junio de 2026.

California

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\$53 million in opposition spending from corporate-backed "super PACs" and business groups.

Many of these same interests have spent more than \$13 million to back Becerra — including the anti-single-payer California Medical Association, California firefighters, Planned Parenthood and union groups. Larger corporate donors include PG&E, Airbnb, nearly \$1 million from Meta and half a million from Chevron.

The average donation to my campaign is \$59," he said, referring to direct grassroots contributions. "That's not a billionaire writing himself a check. It's people like teachers and

nurses and union workers who are supporting this campaign and helping fuel us to victory."

"I am going to make full use of every lever of government as governor to protect the families that were just like my parents, working really hard, never asking for a lot, just hoping that that would open the door to opportunity, if not for them, then for their kids," he said.

"I am ready. I will not need training wheels when I become governor," he added. "My job is to restore that faith, ignite that dream, and make people believe again."

Election Day is June 2, 2026.



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