

California Gov. Newsom signs bills on racial justice, police reform



By Marilyn Bechtel

Among dozens of bills Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law before midnight Sept 30 – the official deadline ending the current legislative session – was Assembly Bill 3121, by Assemblymember and Legislative Black Caucus Chair Dr. Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, making California the first state in the nation to establish a task force to examine reparations for slavery.

The measure establishes a nine-member task force to examine slavery in the U.S. and California's involvement, and how much the state benefited from segregation and denying Black people their rights.

The task force is charged with conducting an in-depth examination of slavery's impacts throughout the state's history and developing guidelines on how to start addressing the disparities that have resulted.

The body is expected to recommend to the state legislature the kind of compensation that should be awarded, how it should be awarded, and to whom. It can also recommend eliminating state laws and policies that perpetuate discrimination.

Newsom also signed another measure by Weber, AB 3070, to strengthen jury procedures and increase transparency so lawyers can't exclude jurors on the basis of factors including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religious membership. The bill also sets up a court procedure for resolving improper bias in peremptory challenges. Calling California's

"rich diversity" the state's greatest asset, Newsom said the bills are an "important steps in the right direction to building a more inclusive and equitable future for all."

Despite its overall leadership on civil rights issues, Weber said, California has not yet come to terms with having allowed slaveholding and the recapture of escaped slaves. "Neither have we effectively addressed our present justice system which allows prosecutors to bar African Americans from serving

THIS WEEK :

- California Gov. Newsom signs bills on racial justice, police reform
- Greenland ice sheet melting faster than any time in last 12,000 years
- Trump receives best medical treatment; undocumented workers get nothing
- Latinos no deben dejar que nada los detenga de votar
- Finland: Communists campaign for LGBT rights in the workplace

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG

on juries." She said Newsom's signing the two bills into law shows once more that California "is dedicated to leading the nation on confronting and addressing systemic injustice."

In June, the Legislative Black Caucus identified AB 3121 as one of its three top priorities, along with two

California becomes first state in the nation to establish a task force on reparations for slavery.

Assembly Constitutional Amendments, ABA 5 and ABA 6. After both were passed and signed into law, these became Proposition 16 to restore affirmative action in California public education, hiring, and contracting, and Proposition 17 to restore voting rights to people on parole. Both are on the ballot in the November election.

Among other new laws relating to racial justice and reforming policing:

- AB 1196, to ban carotid restraints, or chokeholds, introduced by Assemblymember Mike Gipson, D-Carson, in response to the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in late May.
- AB 1506, introduced by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento, which calls on state prosecutors to investigate more police-involved deaths instead of referring that work to local district attorneys. The law also creates a new police practices division to handle local agencies' requests for review of their use-of-force policies and practices.
- AB 2542, introduced by Assemblymember

Ash Kalra, D-San Jose, banning the use of discriminatory language about race, ethnicity, or national origin in efforts to convict a defendant of a crime.

- SB 203, introduced by state Senator Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, requires youth under age 18 to consult with a lawyer before being questioned by police.

Late last month, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, D-Lakewood, announced that a bipartisan Select Committee on Police Reform has been established to provide a "public forum to discuss measures to keep our communities safe and continue California's leadership in police reform" when the legislature resumes work in 2021.

Legislative Black Caucus Chair Weber is among the Select Committee's 10 members – seven Democrats, two Republicans, and one Independent.

Greenland ice sheet melting faster than any time in last 12,000 years

By Jordan Davidson

Rising temperatures in the air and water surrounding Greenland are melting its massive ice sheet at a faster rate than any time in the last 12 millennia, according to a new study published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

The study, Rate of mass loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet will exceed Holocene values this century, found that while Greenland is losing ice rapidly now, the worst is yet to come. At its current trajectory, the Greenland ice sheet will lose its ice mass roughly four times faster than at any time in the last 11,700 years. The researchers say the massive dump of freshwater into the ocean will disrupt the ocean's currents and raise sea levels, as *The Washington Post* reported.

Advanced prediction models had led scientists to conclude that Greenland's melting ice, which is currently the largest contributor to sea level rise, is raising sea levels by 0.7 millimeters each year. And, by the end of the century, that number could increase anywhere from four to ten times its current contribution.

This new paper found that prediction to be a severe underestimation. It revised that prediction

and accounted for a wide range of greenhouse gas emissions to conclude that Greenland's contribution to sea level rise will actually be much worse. By the end of the century, it will lift sea levels between 2 to 10 centimeters every year, according to a commentary in *Nature*.

The Washington Post noted that while Greenland is the largest contributor to rising sea levels, the melting ice sheets in Antarctica may raise sea levels even more.

The commentary in *Nature*, written by Andy Aschwanden from the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, noted that there is really only one way available to us to stop the acceleration of sea ice loss from Greenland.

To conduct the research, the scientists used a combination of on-the-ground observations in southwest Greenland and advanced computer modeling. The geologists looked at the composition of Greenland's boulders to determine when ice was there and when it melted away. That analysis allowed them to put together an uninterrupted history of Greenland's ice sheet and a predictive model for the next century, as *The Washington Post* reported.

Rising temperatures in the air and the water surrounding Greenland are melting its massive ice sheet at a faster rate than any time in the last 12 millennia.

Tax-cheat Trump receives best medical treatment; taxpaying undocumented workers get nothing



By Roberta Wood

Last week, as I watched the news of billionaire hotel magnate Donald Trump being ferried by helicopter from his home to Walter Reed Medical Center to receive medical treatment, and then being chauffeured around the hospital later in the weekend, I couldn't help but think of my friend, Francisco Gomez, diagnosed earlier this year with stage four cancer.

I called him with a question. How much federal income tax had he paid last year? It was an odd question, but he looked at his papers and said: \$2,011.

It's fair to say that some portion of my friend's payment, like mine and that of other taxpayers, helped finance the ostentatious rides of Mr. Trump, whose tax payments were less than half of his. But meanwhile, he is in desperate need of medical attention, care that he is excluded from despite his tax contributions for the last 20 years.

Francisco had worked for decades as a cook in a 5-star hotel near Chicago's Magnificent Mile, a facility similar to properties owned by the Trump enterprises. He never missed a day of work in that hot kitchen in the basement of a luxury banquet hall, part of a workforce that prepares millions of meals and generates billions of dollars in profits.

He underwent surgery and began a course of intensive radiation and chemotherapy in January. At first, his treatment was covered by his top-flight medical insurance, a benefit won by union hotel workers in a hard-fought strike. But the coverage

lapsed during the pandemic after hotels stopped paying into the health care fund.

He, unlike tax-cheat Trump, is ineligible for an Uber ride to the doctor, let alone the treatment he needs to survive. Undocumented members of our country's working class like him have the "privilege" of paying federal taxes but are excluded from even the minimal benefits of Medicaid that they have paid thousands of dollars over the years to support. Francisco Gomez's name and some of his details have been changed to protect his identity. But his story is true and replicated in every city and state.

The relief that our class is fighting for in the face of the pandemic must include our fellow workers like Gomez. Illinois took a small step in that direction when the state Legislature included funding in this year's state budget for a Medicaid-like program for those 65+ who can't qualify for federal Medicare.

The \$5 million allotted for the program is less than 1% of the \$758 million a year in state and local taxes contributed by IL residents without legal immigration status, according to a 2017 study cited in the Chicago Tribune. And the vast majority of workers who are under 65, like Gomez, still aren't covered.

It's a rigged system that rewards a parasite like Trump and abandons our brother, Francisco.

His story is a stark reminder that it's labor, not financial scammers, that creates all wealth. It's a reminder that solidarity and humanity demand that we fight for fair treatment for every member of our country's working class.

Undocumented members... like Francisco Gomez have the "privilege" of paying federal taxes but are excluded from even the minimal benefits of Medicaid they pay to support.

Finland: Communists campaign for LGBT rights in the workplace

By Emile Schepers

The Communist Party of Finland calls for a greater effort, Europe-wide and internationally, to defend the rights of LGBT workers. "Improving the working conditions of LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) people means being able to come out of the closet at the workplace, an inclusive and non-homophobic work environment, recognition of sexual and gender diversity, having visible LGBTI references in working life and in unions, decent wages, strong public services in health, education and housing that are LGBTI people."

The Finnish Communists emphasize that transgender people are especially impacted by discrimination and exclusion, leading them to have high rates of unemployment in European countries. The communists call upon unions and political parties to take up this issue more effectively.

Latinos no deben dejar que nada los detenga de votar

David Trujillo

Dilo fuerte, dílo con orgullo. No seré negado. Yo voy a votar por Biden-Harris. Es tiempo para todo los Latinos que hablen con miembros de la comunidad sobre esta elección. Es tiempo para decir, "No más." ¡Ha sido suficiente!

Es tiempo que la comunidad latina pare de ser amigable y callada. Los latinos se deben en varios aspectos de la comunidad y prepararse para la eventualidad de que el Presidente robe la elección. La comunidad Latina ha sentido el impacto del racismo, sexismo, y la despectiva del presidente.

El presidente ha demostrado en un millón de manera que a él no le importa la población Latina. Latinos no les debe importar al presidente.

No se desvíen por tener dudas sobre la votación. No se deje engañar por todas las tonterías. Deje que su voz sea escuchada exigiendo que su voto se cuente en un entorno justo, seguro y protegido. No importa cuánto tiempo tarde.

¿Qué deben hacer los latinos para asegurarse de que este vendedor de aceite de serpiente sea derrotado?

- Asegúrese de estar registrado para votar. Consiga que otros se registren para votar.
- Asegúrese de votar. Consiga que otros voten.
- Trabaje con otros o con una organización para movilizarse para la votación de las elecciones: saque el voto latino.
- Llame, escriba, hable individualmente, envíe mensajes de texto a sus amigos, parientes y compañeros de trabajo. Los latinos deben votar.
- Lleve a un votante que necesite ir a la casilla de votación.

- Si es un votante registrado, no permita que nadie le impida votar.
- Vote seguro. El coronavirus es un asunto serio.
- Vote Biden-Harris.
- Esté preparado para defender una elección libre y justa. No dejes que nada te detenga.
- Sin excusas. Los latinos deben votar.

Julián Castro, el ex-alcalde de San Antonio y secretario de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano del presidente Obama de 2014 a 2017, lo expresó de esta manera: "Debemos continuar organizando y movilizándolo a los votantes, elegir una mayoría demócrata en la Cámara y el Senado, reemplazar a Donald Trump y luchar por un futuro mejor para todos los estadounidenses".

Vote para salvar empleos y crear una nueva economía, vote por una vivienda digna, vote para preservar y expandir el Seguro Social, para reparar nuestro sistema de atención médica quebrado, vote por una excelente educación pública y por el futuro de nuestros niños. Vote Biden-Harris para salvar nuestra democracia de un tirano delirante, incompetente, lleno de odio y de mentalidad fascista. Lo que sea que hayamos visto en un primer mandato se volvería mucho, mucho peor si recupera el cargo, sin más frenos y controles sabiendo que nunca más se enfrentará al electorado.

No permita que la amenaza de intimidación le impida votar. No dejes que nadie se robe esta elección. Votar es su derecho. Vote con orgullo. ¡Todos con Biden-Harris!

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org