



# ACSSQUARTERLY

Q3 2015

ACSS PROTECTS  
YOUR INTERESTS IN THE  
**STATE BUDGET** PROCESS  
AND IN **LEGISLATION**

**Ted Toppin**, ACSS' Legislative Advocate provides insight and updates on the current legislative issues that impact excluded state employees.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As this is written, the Governor and legislative leaders are working through the final issues that divide them prior to reaching agreement on the 2015-16 State Budget, which is due on June 15.

There is a lot of money to bicker over. Thanks to a booming economy, the Governor's May budget revision predicts \$6.7 billion in new revenue in the next year over and above what was assumed in January. The Legislative Analyst's Office suggests revenues will be even higher, nearly \$10 billion.

Democrats want to spend about \$2 billion of that extra revenue on programs dear to their hearts, expanded access to health care, child care for the poor, and funding to make college more affordable on UC and CSU campuses, just to name a few. For now, the Governor has made clear his preference to keep the billions in windfall revenue in the state's rainy day funds to prepare for the next economic downturn.

### *STATE BUDGET: ACSS HELPS DEFEAT HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH CARE PLANS, RETIREE HEALTH CARE COST SHARING PROPOSALS*

At this time, a couple of things are certain about the budget and they are good news for state-employed supervisors and managers. Thanks to ACSS' opposition and the opposition of other state employee groups, the Governor's budget proposal to require CalPERS to develop and offer high deductible health care plans has been dropped by the Administration. Such plans discourage people from accessing care and generally divide plans into those for the young and the old. They also have the potential to reduce the CalPERS reimbursement rate for active and retired employees. Health reimbursement levels are based on the averaging of the premiums of the four most utilized CalPERS plans. If one or more of the high deductible plans become among the most utilized plans, it could significantly lower the state reimbursement rate.

Working in a coalition, ACSS was also successful in getting the Administration to back away from the much publicized plan to require that the state and its employees share equally in paying for retiree health care costs. Currently, retiree health care is funded entirely by the state and is rightly considered to be an important part of the state employee compensation package.

The Administration has indicated that they will pursue retiree health care funding proposals in collective bargaining, but they will do so without the benefit of a statute that suggests employees must pay at least 50 percent of retiree health care costs going forward.

Only four of the 21 state bargaining units are in negotiations now seeking successor agreements to contracts that expire the first week of July 2015. SEIU Local 1000 units have contracts that extend until July 2016. This is an indication that cost sharing for most state supervisors and managers and other state employees may be deferred for some time.



### *ACSS SUPPORTS BILLS TO LIMIT ADVERSE ACTIONS, PROVIDE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY TO CDCR, DSH EMPLOYEES*

Every year, ACSS monitors dozens of bills that have the potential to impact (for good or bad) state supervisors, managers and confidential employees. Here is a summary and update on two bills that ACSS is currently supporting:

**AB 769 (Jones-Sawyer). Limit Adverse Actions.** AB 769 requires that notice of any adverse action for discipline (with the exceptions of fraud, embezzlement, or falsification of records) be served and the investigation completed by the state within one year from the time the cause for discipline arose. By seeking to resolve adverse actions in a timely manner, AB 769 ensures a safe and healthy workplace for employees and improves the efficiency of state government for taxpayers and the constituents of state services. The bill has passed the Assembly and will soon be referred to the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee.



**AB 222 (Achadjian). Psych Techs – Address Confidentiality.** AB 222 adds psychiatric technicians (and their supervisors and managers) employed by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) to the list of professions eligible for enhanced confidentiality of home address information stored by the Department of Motor Vehicles. AB 222 adds an extra level of protection for the psych techs working at CDCR and DSH from being stalked or harmed by paroled inmates or released patients with a history of mental illness. AB 222 has passed the Assembly and the Senate Public Safety Committee and will soon be referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Please let us know if you have any thoughts about these bills or any other bill that ACSS is monitoring. If you are aware of a bill that requires some action by ACSS, please bring it to our attention. Also, check the ACSS web site periodically for updates on current legislation issues.



– Written by Ted Toppin on 6/9/15. Read full bio below.

## **TED TOPPIN**

### **ACSS' LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE**



Ted Toppin represents ACSS' interests before the Legislature and the Administration and provides political and government affairs services to the association. He is a partner in Blanning and Baker Associates, a full-service consulting firm with a 40-year history of representing state employees. A registered lobbyist, Toppin has worked in California politics for 25 years and has experience in all facets of legislative advocacy and

political action, including lobbying, strategic planning, and political action committee management. Toppin served as chief of staff to legislators in both the California State Senate and the State Assembly, and as a senior consultant to California's Lieutenant Governor. He has also worked as a campaign manager, media consultant and senior advisor on many candidate, independent expenditure and ballot measure campaigns in California and throughout the country.

## **CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS**

Below is a listing of your 2015-2018 elected Chapter officers for each chapter. Congratulations to all the newly elected officials!

### **Chapter 502**

President: Lieutenant Coopwood  
Vice President: Vince Santucci  
Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Anderson

### **Chapter 503**

President: James Teahan  
Vice President: Reuben Jimenez  
Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Ullrey

### **Chapter 504**

President: Donald Merrill  
Vice President: Marie Fay  
Secretary/Treasurer: LaVonne Thomas

### **Chapter 505**

President: Jonathan Tom  
Vice President: Deborah Smith  
Secretary/Treasurer: Nicholas Mraovich

### **Chapter 507**

President: Bill Homsany  
Vice President: Cindy Spencer  
Secretary/Treasurer: Tim Eaton

### **Chapter 508**

President: Antoinette Moon  
Vice President: Paul Sahota  
Secretary/Treasurer: vacant

### **Chapter 509**

President: Angela Gonzalez  
Vice President: Brian Adams  
Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Warren-Rippee

### **Chapter 511**

President: Maria Suarez  
Vice President: Angel Ramsey  
Secretary/Treasurer: Joseph Aiu

### **Chapter 513**

President: Arlene Ryan  
Vice President: Elena Yuasa  
Secretary/Treasurer: Carol Branshaw

### **Chapter 514**

President: Angela Appiah  
Vice President: Lou Van Norman  
Secretary/Treasurer: Erlinda Russell

For a complete listing of delegates and alternates, visit [www.ACSS.org/ACSSElections](http://www.ACSS.org/ACSSElections)

*Chapter 512 did not receive enough candidate consent forms for a general election. Therefore, ballots were not mailed. The search will continue for candidates. If you are a member of Chapter 512 and are interested in running for a chapter position, please contact ACSS Headquarters.*




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- TED TOPPIN - ACSS' LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE
- CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS
- ROLLOVER TO RETIREES

**Q3  
2015**

First Name Last Name

Address 1

Address 2

City, State ZIP

## Did you know that when you retire, you automatically rollover to membership in the **California State Retirees** organization?

As a member of ACSS, when you retire from your position as a manager or supervisor, you automatically become a member of the California State Retirees organization. The California State Retirees (CSR) is the largest, most experienced organization that represents retired state workers. CSR has been fighting for legislation in health care issues, pension protection and other benefits for retirees. since 1930.

If you are close to retiring from your state job, please call CSEA Member Benefits two months prior to your retirement date to ensure that your group insurance benefits continue as a CSR member. (800) 952-5283.

For more information on the California State Retirees, visit [www.californiastateretirees.org](http://www.californiastateretirees.org) or call (888) 808-7197.

**CALIFORNIA  
STATE RETIREES**

## GET INVOLVED!

Come to your local ACSS Chapter's next meeting:

512 - July 23  
513 - August 7  
509 - August 11  
507 - August 18  
514 - August 20  
503 - August 26  
511 - August 27  
504 - September 8  
509 - September 15  
508 - September 17  
512 - September 24

For more info, visit [www.ACSS.org/Events](http://www.ACSS.org/Events)

Contact ACSS Headquarters:  
(800) 624-2137 | [acss@ACSS.org](mailto:acss@ACSS.org)