

Quarterly Community Issues

2021: July - September

KQNC 6:04 am– 6:06 pm Weekdays

9-16-21: POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

In the wake of the failed effort to remove California Governor Gavin Newsom from office ... some top leaders in the state legislature are now calling for the recall process to be reformed. The election chairs of both the Assembly and Senate have announced a coordinated effort to fix what they call a broken system. Assembly member Marc Berman, a Democrat from Menlo Park ... on a press call explaining his position.

9-17-21: ENVIRONMENT

For 20 years, Outside Magazine has released a list of “best places to live” based on access to nature. But this year, the list got a major revamp ... by changing how it calculates the winners. Now, a city’s diversity, sustainability, affordability, and outdoor equity are part of the equation. And, with that in mind, Sacramento jumped into the winner’s circle. It’s now listed as one of 13 places in the U.S...considered by the magazine to be a “city of tomorrow”. Sacramento resident José González is the founder of the outreach and advocacy organization Latinos outdoors. The magazine leaned on him for perspective on equity in accessing nature. José joined CapRadio’s Randol White to talk about the new rankings.

9-21-21: PUBLIC SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT

Wildland firefighters accept risk when they head out to battle a blaze. But Cal Fire firefighters are getting sick, and some have even died, during training. As part of a collaboration between the investigative unit at Columbia Journalism School, the California Newsroom... and KPCC... Jacob Margolis [mar-GOAL-iss] and Brian Edwards have this report.

9-22-21: HUMAN INTEREST, HEALTH CARE, GOVERNMENT

Sacramento is home to one of the largest Afghan refugee communities in the country. Nearly a month after the U-S withdrew from Afghanistan, dozens of school-age children who call Sacramento home remain in the country as school staff here work to bring them back home. To get an update on the status of students and their families stranded in Afghanistan ... Cap Radio's Vicki Gonzalez spoke with Kent Kern - superintendent of the San Juan Unified School District.

9-23-21: HEALTH CARE, GOVERNMENT

Reports about vaccinated Americans catching COVID-19 are energizing vaccine skeptics and leading to more misinformation. Cap Radio’s Politi-Fact California reporter Chris Nichols examined the facts about breakthrough infections in this weeks Can You Handle The Truth segment. He spoke with afternoon anchor Randol White.

9-27-21: EDUCATION, STATE GOVERNMENT

The University of California system is changing how it handles out-of state students ... as leaders make room for more residents to be enrolled. In addition, tuition is rising for those non-Californians. Michael Zinshteyn [zin-shtain] is the higher education reporter at CalMatters ... and just wrote a piece on the changes. He spoke with CapRadio's Randol White.

9-28-21: HEALTH CARE, STATE GOVERNMENT

California has led the nation in September when it comes to slowing the spread of Covid-19. The state is seeing some of the lowest rates of community transmission ...and now the Delta-variant surge also appears to be on the decline. But some health experts warn that another winter surge could be right around the corner. State epidemiologist ... and deputy director of the California Department of Public Health, Center for Infectious Diseases, Doctor Erica Pan [PAWN] spoke with Cap Radio's Randol White about the current state of the pandemic.

9-28-21: HEALTH CARE, RACE & EQUITY

California has the lowest transmission rate in the country, according to top health officials. But some communities in the state are still falling behind on vaccinations. CapRadio's Sarah Mizes-Tan has more. Just over half of California's Indigenous and Alaska Native populations have been vaccinated, recent data suggests. That's a number that lags behind the statewide average of 60 percent. Advocates say that this low rate is rooted both in distrust of the vaccines and lack of access to it. Mark LeBeau is CEO of the California Rural Indian Health Board. He says his organization has been discussing how to take vaccine clinics directly to more remote communities. LEBEAU: You know the ability to be quite mobile with this education and vaccination effort is quite important. Go to where the people are and then work with them to hopefully schedule them to be vaccinated. The state is also concentrating its efforts on vaccinating Indigenous Latino communities who exist in pockets across California, but may be harder to reach because of language barriers.

9-29-21: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sacramento is making plans to launch a new participatory budgeting process in the city... Where residents will be invited to propose ways to spend one-million dollars - a small portion of the city budget. Many cities across the U.S. have tried the experiment... but has it worked? CapRadio's Pauline Bartolone dug deep into that question on the latest episode of California State of Mind. She told podcast hosts all about how citizen-led budgeting has played out in the northern California city of Vallejo.

9-30-21: HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT

School districts from Los Angeles to Oakland have begun to require that eligible students get vaccinated against COVID-19 ... despite questions about whether the districts have the legal authority to do so.