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| *Established in 1991, UCC serves as the representative voice for state legislative advocacy for high-population counties in California. Initially composed of seven counties, the association has grown to 14 today. Nearly 80 percent of the state’s population reside in UCC counties. Consequently, urban counties carry out critical programs and services to the state’s most vulnerable populations. For more information, including details on our Board of Directors, please visit*[*our website*](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3WimpX-YLzDxcEpJzbYYW2ki1ePGIhBrIa1P3Joixz9pXjjGIb1D9WV3MaJFrxZFwN-OdWwxwhaW6u8EYb9exEFwHpJj5HgU12Tw==&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==)*.* |

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| **March 11, 2022** |

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| **Legislature to Address UC Berkeley Student Housing Issue**The Legislature is poised to take action to try to address a recent court case regarding student enrollment at the University of California, Berkeley. As you may have read in the [**news**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSFpLO0HgkPiJbqlnMUSum5P0HmPHq58PK82mTg9mkCcchO0uO2Lh1WAW333O8pTdt6H25LMOnw_mFSYS47rDlnwgDO-RA-9LK4YIk5qy2AF0T9hr9BGbCIymKPE7OytFoVaFWbx-AZiEl5RipGgsvwccyIg4oPkx3sPx8RvXMRLMy0k2Z4Fbo1tvrhBYt78lwy4YI81_XVCs=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==), the California Supreme Court recently refused to issue a stay to a lower court ruling that reduces UC Berkeley enrollment to 2020-21 levels after a community group – Save Berkeley Neighborhoods – sued UC for failing to address the impacts of increased student enrollment on housing, homelessness, and noise under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To comply with the court’s ruling, UC Berkeley has said that it would reduce in-person enrollment by about 2,650; some students will be offered online or deferred enrollment as an alternative. Governor Gavin Newsom, who also serves on the UC Board of Regents, [**weighed in**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdS-VL0Fu_cv63PJbsidBua1i0gO8kVfWP8gz4Fg9F-SF8cKyXhP-6RXYVMjttVip2ZI7-XhV65nDWopZTBNz-1Ly3IewVLSJ10VNrgSTSZLk1R4oFNjmFSyEnQTBuqLbTjw8CYYXiG5EeVfBfHMosVD7U0iM8nlKmSZ7oiZkeKgcDVwPk4HpH1-YHDLRca9XGF_Nkxp3xp-f_VPbL_DNyZc2WHzy20u_c8oSs91ZQqHrAjEk9MkZ3bShW80lWjb65F&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==) on the side of UC Berkeley with the court. Now, the Assembly and Senate budget committees are slated to hear two bills on Monday, one of which [**AB 168**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSPRxcRsLCadpjnJhHxLr0Bw9wKAWiRnN4JxxFbNFzUJHDTM5UB3Ndcst306W0qgfjikeVTo6F1FQF0Xlsj1E7BfPdTRZDaGzFqcXc0SR4Ie-V3VMfUY0nAq-rk62ML4JSWXjQfMZZxPAByMpdy0SkGj9I-CDupTS0sd3qX4HZJJs=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==) (and its identical companion measure [**SB 118**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSZFM3qnX3WuU93OSxPLeybMeoJu7WvfvVCYjKirhP61jqjuLeBKmBRhBBUPJs0VId1OhOG4CfuMve-YA6SFQKzV_rJV7TVF6__7XMbbhTVJyzENpRMeVnAJ524pye1c-gQ098VjiVXK4GhNe87hxhyOhFWHuFbAn-QhBtD_P2y_g=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==)) urgently addresses UC’s conundrum. (Additionally, [**AB 169**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSHmGG7Ynz235Gq_mgULG7XSSr5jAL-yNgLeHKQBEZ3vks3C9j78Fj5pSfaHK3LiZLuyUGCLawRqCsNELT55LfXtCu8lUGne2ORsRHv31I5LDO5kitDCvkU97aEGFnHFlMPrv864v1SapitjGnbN53xFmHHIDfNxBYqQBUUIossDc=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==)/[**SB 119**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSHelB07YoQfawGVwxibIKXZP1QweMZkz0DBLR8SgcZfYot5uUm5tpdmDYr_naw7rYUBNuFcKXi5mS0CI6R-ewciezDyha_3Ym2Ui4pOa2B_wItss6CtEFiKPzmzem_hnHiox-gnIO3oabz8-Gu0ZzGxCgCtttQcZcfoRFOfWQT2s=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==) – a new Budget Bill, Jr., which is proposed to make narrow corrective and clarifying changes to the 2021-22 Budget Act, will be discussed the committees.) The Assembly Budget Committee has prepared brief [**summaries**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSAP9HXrPV_ETM8MXuoVts6V2MP2VI6Ur-Vdbburm6GKvLCAZOAsBZkMlUzNC7sPq8pw4En5Bb0f4lNg2L9rM1GhjNGixMCjqPsU7M6EBCxy40_RVHKz6hzun5aesIYX4jdZoq_Y93rXSsCce16XzvVetQ0XMHQl-hVKBnIUHBRvskRfNiIJMkATCueX7H0IBQ&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==) of both sets of bills, all of which were amended to incorporate substantive provisions just this morning.  Housing for UC students isn’t a new issue, with well-documented challenges at [**UC San Diego**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdS8hv6sl_fZcqJcOTafAoVGPO1UJRbIFKSZ4lUNeYM_0Fr8BCls-IhtSPUtghWlWnj2EPtIcjYYQI7RBE3YM1WnaJdHsdVmT7RWSX51fB0lnfXeIPo6NXqDPmRve85V97zcB_quljSEO91mBMbiSY2DxkdlqJwQkWOva98V4d3O_w=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==), [**UC Santa Cruz**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSklXc4UTMgAU6eU2PmrhW61JvV6JxA2zbD9l7bHtvrVSuckheQuIMo6e46TOZBt43JJjTeDOz8adPIwP6YmfGINYLsDNmuUE0JP1OnzYskYffjlHE6kmh1ViqTTb_V-Yl4hPMCQNTG35n06I5cOWmJe2B6WttlrJ6lyTad4VN0SHJXPOIS-wDruT5S6QAbQzrCLwUQ_iyijYiB70ZILN-N6O55HObJm0YuSwfDmPWFvvB2UTuJvVbMUsSRtsFmB465okPhNhMAAv78c59VuK8FQ==&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==), and [**UC Santa Barbara**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSdMzbOXgp8dnIiNavOHWr7rfQFZjzPs7C25Brown4oOyCpEUzKgV0jnzY5ocNI8_zniO_HmH0LuHUxg9-52uZsDR6b1ian92rk_xMUh2Abciy6vRXk-aAqI5lY8TSP_90L3zzEu4y_qv5gGfr9D8Wvw==&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==), certainly in part attributable to the Legislature pushing UC to expand admissions to include more California students. Expect student housing to continue to be a focus for the Legislature through the end of the year. **Adult Behavioral Health Issues Discussed by Assembly Subcommittee**Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on health and human services met on March 7 to discuss adult behavioral health proposals, including mobile crisis units, Bridge Housing, Medication Assisted Treatment, and Incompetent to Stand Trial budget proposals. The agenda can be viewed [**here**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSjVdj-mfscqUgllq-xbR32UPHGGdkSx73eJE8dw7-6g-JoJ1xFu3zBiUie_CG6Ue1TRMVv9WoUfsgK4SMz7s9ujymaRMGhMQPl2XlLuwroZS3VskRi2h1w3JqImHqNkEWE1ZTJfbLEdbPPSCWk8-5BCsm8hvbQGkaX7k9I_uHvQ7iFS9peMZUCq6dhmJwtU3vm7quIOu4vrihIiyJP4QSV041ys0yy5-AzxEguIAJGD8u9L-oyGpQZQ==&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==). Subcommittee Chair Joaquin Arambula set the Legislature’s tone for the hearing, stating that care and compassion are the California way, and we should not wait until individuals are decompensating and in jails before they get help. The Administration provided an overview of their plans to implement the 988 hotline. Under federal law, 988 will go live July 16, 2022, as a shortcut to call or text for help regarding suicide or other behavioral health crises. The Administration is working to develop a blueprint for implementation in California by the end of the current year. They will be developing statewide minimum standards and metrics; models and prototypes to implement locally, with the recognition that there will be different models in different counties and communities; a high-level overview of resources needed and what is available to be used; roles and responsibilities across state departments; identification of major milestones. The Administration recognizes it will take several years to get to the full implementation. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) provided more details on the mobile crisis response service benefit being proposed for Medi-Cal. The department is engaging stakeholders on implementation of the benefit. The federal guidance requires the response team to include at least one behavioral health clinician who can provide an assessment. It could also include nurses, social workers, peer support specialists. DHCS also is looking at the best options for reimbursement. Services will have to be reimbursed at cost until July 1, 2023, when the behavioral health payment structure will switch from cost based to intergovernmental transfers. After July 2023, they are contemplating a fee schedule, possibly with episodic payments and incremental payments based on time.  Panelists noted the need for continued investment in behavioral health infrastructure and workforce. Some noted concerns about competitive procurements not ensuring that behavioral health investments occur throughout the state. Match requirements can be problematic, both for counties and non-traditional providers. Panelists also noted several decisions still need to be made about mobile crisis units, including who makes decisions about where to take patients, who will be on the mobile crisis teams, the availability of crisis receiving facilities, checklist criteria for medical emergencies that may necessitate calling 911 and involvement of emergency medical services. The Legislative Analyst’s Office raised some concerns about the mobile crisis benefit, including: 1) counties may not have adequate behavioral health workforce to staff these new mobile crisis teams; 2) rural counties may experience difficulty ensuring 24/7 access to mobile crisis care in more sparsely populated areas; 3) how federal guidance for best practices will be incorporated (examples include minimizing law enforcement involvement and coordinating with schools on youth-specific needs); and 4) the lack of clarity about whether the new Medicaid services will be allowed to continue beyond the five year period for which they have been authorized.  **More News on CARE Court**While not on the March 7 Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 agenda, the Administration did provide a high-level overview of the CARE Court proposal that the Governor unveiled on March 3. Stephanie Welch from the California Health and Human Services Agency spoke on behalf of the Administration, emphasizing that CARE Court is a proposed framework that will be more fully developed into policy solutions with the assistance of stakeholders and advocates. CARE Court is a “paradigm shift” meant to address behavioral health issues upstream to prevent conservatorships and incarceration. The Court will connect individuals with schizophrenia or psychosis disorder with a clinical assessment and a court-ordered plan. She also emphasized that CARE Court is not for everyone experiencing mental health or homelessness issues.  Yesterday, the Governor also held the first in a series of statewide convenings at Kress House, a residential housing facility that provides comprehensive behavioral health services for justice-involved individuals in Los Angeles. According to the Governor’s Office, these convenings are intended to bring together individuals who would benefit from the new framework, health care providers, first responders, outreach workers, representatives from the courts, local officials, and other stakeholders. The Administration also launched a CARE Court [**website**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdScKW5DyTtyJkLF1MxEiXpHH4_lLxvz7gSpnH8gprRTnFiY1Kw2P_0ebFfBZ7yjb8jeFkBZ6jONbSase3SS9ZReif8hzu_RymQ&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==), which includes resources – including a new [**framework document**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSiMjTng-uxNq_qpYHw5lfzHz0GAUKcvjTPtlfKM9_HwnRFIRK2R92ktQaTpylkoWq1nn-gERM3-2jk1w45whrfPuxJ9Cuo6qWr0dXc8FlYL2Xl1pmpKiTlu_488X_5gnxd-R6MyBCi-MxNbkp7O8CaPWpoQlHhfL0xlorbwC73rU=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==). Please note that stakeholders can [**register**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cCjnzp3yxnAyhH3ZrcKe7m4JfjUPDjudoPSrZnKgwtSzpCfxgP3Wil308G5NqCdSwR6ZX87fuaL5guMmkKFLVmox5n8B5SXtjaNA0bKD3HOPL3YWz90R6IwdAT8SkzhkRcBCk5-t-l_jJyeEQ84S1Db3mCd8SxzWoLV6vW0RqaofW0z3fgQtTpced4KrYSoD5t1EYGCn1js=&c=IR94nlXIKr04RRD5ap4PaQqwo0FUSQ9VCz9qNrDBTxCSoa90uDoeag==&ch=q2_Go38P2_b0sMCNJZF2rZ_5Ezw5IaJOJ-p_tVR0U8bz0vZmCctSpw==) for a March 14 webinar on the proposal. **Previewing the November 2022 Ballot Match-Ups**Today is the deadline for candidates to file for statewide races. For the last several months, several sitting members of the Legislature have announced moves, retirements, decisions not to seek re-election, departures for other jobs, or candidacy for other offices (e.g., Congress, city councils, Boards of Supervisors). Just yesterday, Assembly Member Tom Daly (D-Anaheim) announced that he will not be seeking re-election for his Orange County-based seat. As the dust settles, up to 35 legislators who began the 2021-22 legislative session will be gone by next year. Democrats have resolved all of the potential Democrat-on-Democrat incumbent match-ups, with one of the members in the same-party faceoff deciding to retire, move to a new district, or to run for another office. The Governor’s race has also settled with Governor Newsom as the only Democratic candidate. None of the high-profile Republicans who ran against the Governor during the recall last year chose to enter the field this year. The Republicans who will be vying to run against Newsom are state Senator Brian Dahle and Shawn Collins, a Navy veteran. Independent Michael Shellenberger announced his candidacy this week. After the resounding defeat of the recall effort last fall, capitol watchers assume the Governor is well-positioned to win a second term. |

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