



## 2013 State & Federal Legislative Positions

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### 2013 California Legislative Positions

Bill Number	Sponsor	Description	GL Staffer	GL Position
<b>Boys &amp; Men of Color</b>				
<b>SB 283</b> Hancock		Current state statute bans people convicted of low-level drug offenses from accessing CalWORKs and CalFresh for life, institutionalizing barriers to re-entry, access to job training and work support, and nutritional support. <b>This bill would</b> amend existing law so that individuals convicted in state or federal court after Dec. 31, 1997, of any felony offense that has an element of the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance can still receive CalWORKs and/or CalFresh benefits as long as they comply with conditions of their supervised release (e.g. probation, parole, other) and participate in a drug treatment program (if applicable).	Carla	Support
<b>SB 649</b> Leno	ACLU	<b>This bill would</b> revise the state penalty for drug possession for personal use from a felony to an alternate misdemeanor felony (also known as a “wobbler”).	Carla	Support
<b>AB 174</b> Bonta		Children and youth in low-income neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by violence which has resulted in the onset of trauma and other mental health related issues. Boys and young men of color are particularly at risk and are less likely to have a usual source of care. <b>This bill would</b> create a grant program to fund activities and services to address mental health needs of students through school-based health centers. Adolescents with access to school based health centers are 10 times more likely to seek mental health and substance abuse services, so by establishing this program, this bill would reduce mental health related disorders impacted by trauma such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression and promote health in low-income communities	Carla	Support
<b>AB 218</b> Dickinson	National Employment Law Project, All of Us or None, PICO, & others	<b>This bill would</b> prohibit state government agencies from asking job applicants about criminal history until after the applicant’s qualifications for the position have been established.	Carla	Support
<b>AB 814</b> Bradford		Currently, if a child 16 years or younger and is required to attend school (exemptions would include homeschooling), and they are truant, counties can eliminate or reduce CalWORKs benefits for their family. <b>This bill would</b> not necessarily prevent this from occurring, but it would require counties to investigate the issue further and provide families an opportunity to plead their case before benefits are changed.	Carla	Support

Bill Number	Sponsor	Description	GL Staffer	GL Position
AB 870 Jones-Sawyer		<b>This bill would</b> prohibit firms contracted by government agencies from asking about criminal history until after the applicant's qualifications for the position have been established.	Carla	Support
<b>Democracy / Voting Rights</b>				
SB 654 Leno & Padilla	The Greenlining Institute	Currently, the ballot initiative petition process is in English-only. Meanwhile, the Federal Voting Rights Act requires us to provide bilingual poll assistance and translated voting materials in as many as nine (9) languages, based on the demographics of our state. An English-only initiative process means that at least 2.6 million eligible voters are being left out because they are limited-English proficient. It also means these voters are subject to manipulation by paid signature gatherers who may speak their language but misstate the details of the petition. <b>If passed, this bill would</b> further the purposes of The Federal Voting Rights Act by ensuring that language access is not a barrier to participation in our initiative process. This bill would require the title and summary of initiatives to be translated prior to circulation.	Michelle	Sponsor
AB 149 Weber	The Greenlining Institute & California Civil Rights Coalition	Today, there are more than 293,000 people on probation in California. Under current law, these individuals would be eligible to vote. However, current law does not require that these individuals be notified about their right to vote and misinformation leads many to believe that they are ineligible even 10, 20, or 30 years after they have been released. The probation population alone makes up about 5% of our total unregistered citizens in California, and is predominantly black or Latino. <b>If passed, this bill would</b> require the Department of Corrections, including probation officers, to notify all persons upon release or eligibility, of their right to vote. They will also provide a voter registration card and guide to voting rights to each individual.	Michelle	Co-Sponsor
AB 938 Weber	ACLU, The Greenlining Institute, All of Us or None, & others	California's prison realignment has created a new sentencing alternative called "post release community supervision" or PRCS. PRCS is neither probation nor parole, but is similar in that persons are released to their communities and supervised by an officer. This has caused a lot of confusion about whether these citizens are eligible to vote. Under current law, persons on parole or in state prison are not eligible. By default, persons in county jail or on probation are eligible to vote. In the absence of legislative guidance, the Secretary of State issued an opinion that people on PRCS are not eligible to vote, which is now guiding election administrators across the state. We believe it was not the intent of the legislature to change the rules about voter eligibility through realignment. <b>If passed, this bill would</b> provide the clarification needed that PRCS is "not parole" and therefore, under current law, these individuals shall have the right to vote. Currently, people under PRCS are being supervised by a probation (not parole) officer.	Michelle	Co-Sponsor
SJR 6 Yee		During the 2012 Presidential election, research showed that across the country, blacks had an average wait time at the polls that was three times the average wait time for white voters, and had to wait in line for several hours to cast a ballot. <b>This bill would</b> pass a resolution in support of the federal "The Lines Interfere with National Elections Act of 2013." This act, if passed in Congress, would require the US Attorney General to work with the Election Assistance Commission to devise a plan to ensure that voters do not wait in line more than one hour at any polling place.	Michelle	Support
AB 700 Gomez		<b>This bill would</b> increase efforts to promote civic participation among young voters, who are also overwhelming of color, by requiring our K-12 public education institutions to include information in social studies and civics courses, about how to register to vote, obtain voter information, and cast a ballot.	Michelle	Support

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<b>AB 817</b> Bonta	Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian Law Caucus, & NALEO	Election officials continue to struggle to identify and engage voters to serve as bilingual poll workers, for the purposes of fulfilling their requirements to provide language assistance at the polls. <b>This bill would</b> expand the pool of people who would be eligible to serve, by allowing non-citizens such as legal permanent residents, to serve as poll workers. Bilingual poll workers are instrumental for ensuring access to and participation in elections by limited-English voters, and for enabling precincts to comply with federal language access requirements.	Michelle	Support
<b>AB 857</b> Fong	California Labor Federation	Today, wealthy special interests can basically buy our initiative process. As long as someone has a couple of million dollars, they can hire paid signature gatherers to collect signatures for a petition to put a measure on the ballot. Oftentimes, this leads to policies placed on our ballots that benefit private interests and not the public good. <b>This bill would</b> return our initiative process to the people by requiring that 20% of signatures collected to qualify a measure be collected by volunteers or other individuals who are not primarily paid to solicit signatures. It also makes numerous other changes such as requiring training for paid signature gatherers, prohibiting the counting of signatures toward qualification if the person who gathered them is found guilty of fraud, manipulation, or misrepresentation, disclosure of donors on the petition, and a warning notice to voters if the petition is circulated by paid gatherers.	Michelle	Support
<b>AB 941</b> Rendon	California State Controller	Along with AB 1237, <b>this bill would</b> address the recent problems of cities becoming insolvent due to lack of financial transparency or abuse of authority. Taken together, the bills expand the oversight authority of the Controller's office to investigate or audit instances in which local governments may not be complying with financial requirements in state law, state grants, or local laws. There may be some unintended consequences of procedures being established that are overly prescriptive. However, uniform standards affords all cities and local governments enhance transparency by allowing apples-to-apples comparisons. The cities with the most blatant acts of financial mismanagement and public abuse have been those cities with poor, underserved communities. The city of Bell is a well-known example.	Sam	Support
<b>AB 1157</b> Jones		<b>This bill would</b> require voters to show a government-issued photo ID when voting to prevent fraud. Voter ID programs across the nation have been used to suppress the vote of people of color and other disadvantaged groups. There is no proof of any significant fraud issues in California that would require a government-issued photo ID requirement to solve. On the contrary, this could prevent eligible citizens from exercising their fundamental right if they do not have proper identification or simply misplaced it and are awaiting a new one.	Michelle	Oppose
<b>AB 1237</b> Garcia	California State Controller	Refer to AB 941 above.	Sam	Support
<b>Economic Equity</b>				
<b>AB 305</b> V.M Perez	TELACU	The recent elimination of California's Redevelopment Agencies has severely impacted economically distressed communities throughout the state. With fewer economic development tools available, these communities risk not being able to achieve the economic outcomes needed to address blight, fight high unemployment and increase affordable housing. <b>This bill would</b> establish a California new tax credit program modeled after the federal program. The program would authorize \$200 million in tax credit investments to attract investment to small businesses and business-related real estate development throughout California, in low-income communities in both rural and urban areas.	Sasha	Support
<b>Education</b>				
<b>SCA 5</b> Hernandez		Proposition 209, which repealed affirmative action in California, significantly reduced the number of students of color enrolled in our public universities. <b>This bill would</b> remove the CSU and UC from the provisions of Prop 209 and allow them to address enrollment disparities directly. This bill does not address Prop 209's effect on supplier diversity and workforce diversity in the state.	Michelle	Support

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<b>Energy &amp; Telecommunications</b>				
SB 489		Some private companies regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) have been found to be lacking in service quality and maintaining their infrastructure, to the point where customers are having serious issues getting safe, reliable water. In some cases, the CPUC will appoint a third-party receiver to take over the company and resolve these issues, but it can take several years before the issues are actually resolved. <b>The bill would</b> streamline the process by which a receiver can be appointed to take control of the utility in question and restore service to acceptable standards of quality, reliability, and safety. It would decrease the time customers would need to wait for resolution of serious service quality issues.	Stephanie	Support
AB 270 Bradford		Some are concerned that there are several different energy efficiency (EE) programs operating presently, run by different agencies and relying on different funding streams, without much coordination between them. There's also a transparency concern regarding ratepayer funded EE programs. <b>This bill would</b> require the CA Public Utilities Commission to compile and present zip-code level data for the public, on where dollars are being spent, how much, and how many people. Given that people of color are more likely to rent and more likely to be of lower income, it's quite possible that the benefits of these ratepayer funded programs are not reaching our communities in proportion to what we pay for them. This database is intended to reveal these discrepancies so that something can be done about them.	Stephanie	Support
AB 300 Perea		<i>Telecommunications: prepaid mobile telephone services: state surcharge and fees: local charges collection.</i>	Stephanie	Oppose
AB 327 Perea		<b>This bill would</b> provide the CPUC the flexibility to implement what they determine to be the appropriate course of action on rate design by removing certain restrictions in existing law. Misleadingly referred to as the "Ratepayer Equity Act."	Stephanie	Oppose
AB 366 Holden	East West Bank	Government Order 156 deals with supplier diversity in procurements for California Public Utilities Commission-regulated companies. Under GO 156, a minority business enterprise is defined as follows for the purposes of meeting supplier diversity requirements: A business that is at least 51% owned by a minority group or groups; or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more minority groups, and the business' management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of those individuals. Supplier diversity practices help sustain and build wealth for small businesses and communities of color. <b>This bill would</b> dilute the definition of a minority business enterprise. If passed, it would allow companies that are not actually minority-owned to be considered for supplier diversity contracts.	Stephanie	Oppose unless amended
AB 743 Steinberg		<b>This bill would</b> reduce electric rates for customers in the upper tiers of usage by allowing the rates for low-income customers on the CARE program to rise gradually. In doing so, SB 743 will ensure only gradual and rational increases are made, and protect against more sporadic and large increases.	Stephanie	Support
AB 922 Patterson		<b>This bill would</b> make changes to the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)'s enrollment process, a low-income ratepayer-serving program. It would likely result in thousands of eligible participants dropping off the program rolls.	Stephanie	Oppose
AB 995 Frazier		Current law allows consumer protection groups to intervene at the California Public Utilities Commission on behalf of ratepayers, and to be compensated under certain circumstances if they meet criteria specified. <b>This bill would</b> make changes to reduce participation in the intervener program.	Stephanie	Oppose

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<b>Environmental Equity</b>				
<b>SB 37</b> de Leon	Environmental Defense Fund	Currently, many Californians lack access to affordable financing for on-site energy efficiency and clean energy projects, such as solar panels on their houses. SB 37, known as the California Clean Energy Consumer Access Act, would provide greater access by enacting a financing program called On Bill Repayment (OBR). Under this financing mechanism, private third parties would cover the upfront costs of energy efficient and clean energy upgrades and customers pay back the loans through their utility bills.	Ryan	Support
<b>SB 39</b> de Leon		Proposition 39, passed by voters in 2012, closed a business tax loophole that is expected to raise about \$500 million or more per year and designates those funds for energy efficiency projects. <b>This bill would</b> direct Prop 39 funds to retrofit K-12 schools with energy efficiency upgrades. Schools would apply to be considered for these funds, with priority being given to school facilities in lower-income areas based on a set of criteria.	Ryan	Support
<b>SB 448</b> Leno		<b>This bill would</b> create a new office in the California Energy Commission to investigate and prevent fuel price manipulation.	Ryan	Support
<b>AB 114</b> Salas		SB 39, introduced by Senators De León and Steinberg, defines how revenue raised from Proposition 39, the Clean Energy Jobs Act, would be appropriated. <b>This bill would</b> further ensure that a portion of the revenue generated from Proposition 39 creates new jobs and expands work force development opportunities for California's disadvantaged communities.	Ryan	Support
<b>AB 217</b> Bradford & de Leon		The current low-income solar programs under the California Solar Initiative, Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) and Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH), have nearly exhausted their current funding. While the upfront cost of solar has decreased in recent years, barriers remain for low-income families and additional price support is required to ensure continued low-income participation in California's growing solar economy. <b>This bill would</b> ensure that the benefits of solar continue to reach low-income families and communities that need the energy cost savings and jobs the most, by encouraging residential solar in disadvantaged communities, creating solar job training and employment opportunities, and building upon previous investments.	Ryan	Support
<b>AB 1051</b> Bocanegra		Demand is high for more transportation and housing options, but funds for these programs have been eliminated or have virtually been exhausted. <b>This bill would</b> allocate some funds from the new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (cap-and-trade revenues) to create a "Sustainable Communities for All Program" beginning Jan. 2015. This program will fund affordable transportation and affordable housing options for low-income Californians, create more than 70,000 new jobs through transit and transit-oriented residential development, and finance affordable rental units for very low-income families.	Ryan	Support
<b>Health</b>				
<b>SB 189</b> Monning		Workplace wellness programs are supposed to encourage employees to get and stay healthy. However, they are often implemented in a way that punishes those who don't meet certain benchmarks by increasing their premiums or other ways. Rather than leading with a "carrot" or positive incentive goal, employers lead with a "stick" or threat of a negative consequence. <b>This bill would</b> establish worker protections for wellness programs offered by group health care plans or insurers, by prohibiting wellness program incentives linked to premiums, cost sharing, or conditioned on meeting specific health status outcomes. It highlights the need to address cultural competency in designing workplace wellness programs, and requires participation to be voluntary.	Carla	Strongly Support (Priority)
<b>SB 353</b> Lieu		<b>This bill would</b> strengthen consumer protections for new healthcare enrollees and protect them against potential devastating marketing practices. New healthcare enrollees will disproportionately be people of color.	Carla	Support



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<b>AB 191</b> Bocanegra	California Food Policy Advocates	Low-income communities of color comprise the majority of both CalFresh and Medi-Cal program participants, but currently, only about half of eligible Californians participate in CalFresh. There is an opportunity to address this issue through the expansion of Medi-Cal. <b>This bill would</b> streamline access to CalFresh through the Medi-Cal expansion, by requiring the Dept. of Social Services to waive the CalFresh gross income test for any individual who is categorically eligible and who is also a member of a household that receives, or is eligible to receive Medi-Cal benefits.	Carla	Support
<b>AB 209</b> Pan		<b>This bill would</b> establish the Dept. of Health Care Services as the agency to develop and implement a plan to monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality and accessibility of health care and dental services provided through Medi-Cal managed care.	Carla	Strongly Support (Priority)
<b>AB 411</b> Pan	California Pan-Ethnic Health Network	Currently, there is a significant lack of available data that would allow health agencies to evaluate health disparities by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic factors, which are necessary to effectively implement health care reform in California. <b>This bill would</b> require the Dept. of Health Care Services to collect Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures (HEDIS) and data on race/ethnicity and primary language spoken, and to identify disparities in medical treatment between Medi-Cal managed care members of different races and ethnicities and to implement strategies to reduce those disparities.	Carla	Strongly Support (Priority)
<b>AB 496</b> Perez and Lara		<b>This bill would</b> reauthorize the Task Force on Culturally and Linguistically Competent Physicians and Dentists in order to expand the Task Force's representative membership and charge to include the LGBT community.	Carla	Support
<b>AB 617</b> Nazarian	Western Center on Law and Poverty	<b>This bill would</b> establish a coordinated notice and appeal system for eligibility and application issues for Covered CA, Medi-Cal, and AIM per the federal regulations. Currently, the appeals and redetermination process could take up to 90 days which means there can be gaps in coverage, especially in the initial use of the Exchange where they may be a lot of troubleshooting. The inclusion of an option for an expedited appeals process benefits communities of color, who have disproportionately higher rates of accessing the emergency room.	Carla	Support
<b>AB 720</b> Skinner		<b>This bill would</b> assist individuals currently sentenced to county jails to enroll in Medi-Cal services.	Carla	Support
<b>AB 880</b> Gomez	California Labor Federation and United Food and Commercial Workers	More and more employers are cutting worker hours to evade obligations under the federal Affordable Care Act. Big corporations now cut hours and reduce pay so that their workers qualify for the publicly funded Medi-Cal program – at taxpayer expense. Beginning in 2014, an Affordable Care Act provision will fine large employers if their employees are forced to purchase coverage through the Health Exchange because they are ineligible for Medi-Cal or don't get employer-based coverage. California needs a comparable solution to prevent companies from doing this. <b>This bill would</b> build off the ACA by fining large employers (including nonprofits) if their part- or full-time workers are forced to enroll into Medi-Cal. AB 880 defines large as 500+ employees. Funds raised from the penalty would be used to bolster the Medi-Cal program and subsidize state costs.	Carla	Support
<b>AB 975</b> Wieczowski and Bonta	California Nurses Association	Currently, nonprofit hospitals and clinics are required to provide "charity care" or "community benefit" in order to qualify for certain tax exemptions. However, they do this in varying, opaque ways and some are under-performing. <b>This bill would</b> define "charity care" for nonprofit hospitals and multispecialty clinics and refine what is considered a "community benefit." This will be particularly important for low-income communities in areas where hospitals are failing to provide adequate benefits. Standardization will enable the Franchise Tax Board to hold them accountable to fulfilling their community benefit mission.	Carla	Support
<b>Immigration</b>				
<b>AB 1196</b> Eggman		Currently, some local authorities are requiring photo ID from victims in order to obtain their crime report even though the state does not require it. In some cases, local authorities are denying victims form obtaining their own reports if	Michelle	Support

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		they show a matricula consular card. Some victims need a copy of their report to support their immigration petitions. <b>This bill</b> outlines acceptable forms of identification for victims to obtain a crime report, if identification is required by local authorities, including a matricula consular card. This bill does not however, prescribe identification. If passed, it would prevent discrimination of victims of a crime on the basis of their immigration status.		
<b>AJR 3</b>	Coalition of Humane Immigrant Rights of LA	A resolution in support of comprehensive immigration reform.	Michelle	<b>Support</b>
<b>Special Session</b>				
<b>AB X1 1</b> Perez		<b>This bill would</b> expand Medi-Cal eligibility to low-income childless adults.	Carla	<b>Support</b>
<b>AB X1 2</b> Hernandez		<b>This bill would</b> require health insurers to comply with the Affordable Care Act (health care reform).	Carla	<b>Support</b>
<b>AB X1 3</b> Conway		<b>This bill would</b> create unnecessary and discriminatory policies for background checks for all employees and contractors with the Health Benefit Exchange. The bill also currently contradict state law in regards to state employees.	Carla	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>SB X1 1</b> Hernandez & Steinberg		<b>This bill would</b> expand Medi-Cal eligibility to low-income childless adults and simplify Medi-Cal eligibility rules.	Carla	<b>Support</b>
<b>SB X1 2</b> Pan		<b>This bill would</b> require health insurers to comply with the Affordable Care Act (health care reform).	Carla	<b>Support</b>
<b>SB X1 4</b> Emmerson		<b>This bill would</b> create unnecessary and discriminatory policies for background checks for all employees and contractors with the Health Benefit Exchange. The bill also currently contradicts state law in regards to state employees.	Carla	<b>Oppose</b>

## 2013 Federal Legislative Positions

Bill Number	Sponsor	Description	GL Staffer	GL Position
<b>Energy &amp; Telecommunications</b>				
<b>HR</b> Matsui, Waxman, Eshoo		"Broadband Adoption Act of 2013." For decades, federal law has provided for Lifeline service, to ensure that low-income Americans have access to telephones. This bill updates the law to recognize that broadband has become just as essential in today's economy as landlines once were.	Steph	<b>Support</b>