

MAKE Farms in San Diego, CA,
an urban farm right next to a
trolley station in Mission Valley



**CALIFORNIA FOOD +
FARMING NETWORK**

Food & Farm Scorecard 2025

The California Food and Farming Network (CFFN) is composed of over fifty organizations across the state that envisions an inclusive, equitable, and ecologically regenerative food and farming system that has recognized and repaired injustices to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color workers, producers, and communities, and one that generates healthy, affordable, accessible, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food for all.

This annual scorecard aims to create space for legislative and executive accountability while celebrating policy wins and ensuring that the vision of a food system for all is one that everyone can imagine. This vision includes:

Food Sovereignty

All people have the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound methods, and to define and prosper in their own food and agriculture systems.

Food as a Human Right

All communities have access to the nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate, and traditional food they need to thrive.

Shared Economic Prosperity

All people have equitable opportunity to fully participate and build wealth in the food and farming system, contributing their food and ag cultures, knowledge, and skills to strengthen and diversify opportunities and build resilience for all.

Empowered Workers

Workers are respected and valued as essential to the survival and health of our communities, share in the wealth of their labor, have the power to shape their working conditions and lives, and have the opportunity to become owners or prosper within the food system.

Ecological Health

Our food and farming system is rooted in agroecological systems determined by impacted communities, shifting power away from corporate agribusiness. This means honoring Indigenous and cultural practices, and farming in harmony with nature so that people and the land are nourished and healed.

Priority Bills for the 2025 Legislative Session

While this wasn't California's first budget deficit, it came as the Trump administration returned with a heavier hand, starkly shifting our movement's priorities from incremental gains to minimizing losses. This year brought bureaucratic confusion, executive orders targeting equity and climate initiatives, hateful attacks towards the immigrant communities of our borderlands, and the biggest federal budget cuts in history to SNAP and Medicare.

While our focus has historically been on state policy, the distinction between state and federal politics blurred this year as state leaders scrambled to defend safety net programs from federal rollbacks. CFFN's Steering Council prioritized five urgent, principle-driven bills aimed at protecting our immigrant communities and building back community power where it has been taken. Yet, for the first time in the twelve years of this scorecard, none crossed the finish line. These bills sought to strengthen farmworker labor protections, improve farmland access for small farmers, and improve food access for immigrant families, caregivers, and students. This is unacceptable at a time when farmworkers are disappearing, small-farmer support services are zeroed out by the USDA, and food insecurity is deepening.

Instead of blaming budget shortfalls and federal attacks on why we cannot adequately protect California's core, essential communities, the state needs to explore new revenue streams, end corporate handouts that keep our budget in deficit, and innovate beyond status-quo policies that keep us in cycles of poverty.

We applaud the Assembly for halting SB 18—a corporate handout to large grocery chains disguised as a food security solution. This bill became an additional priority bill for the network that we opposed unless amendments were taken to include community voice in determining solutions to hunger. SB 18's shortsighted industry-led proposal did not align with the state's interest in addressing food affordability, an important step toward recognizing food as a human need and a human right.

2026 must be a turning point. Implementation of Prop 4 funding for regional food systems, small farmers, and Tribes will be critical. As we look ahead, California must recommit to bold, community-driven solutions that center equity, protect those most impacted by our food and farming systems, and restore the belief that meaningful change is possible.

Bill No. & Author	Position	Bill Name	Status	Win
Resilient Regional Food Systems				
SB 18 (Rubio)	Oppose Unless Amended	"Food Desert Elimination Program"	Died in Assembly Appropriations Committee	✓ Win
Healthy Food Access				
SB 411 (Pérez)	Support	Stop Childhood Hunger Act	Vetoed by the Governor	✗ Loss
SB 225 (McNerney)	Support	Summer Caregiver Meals	Held in Senate Appropriations Committee	✗ Loss
AB 1049 (Rodriguez)	Support	California Food Assistance Program – Sponsor Deeming	In 2-year process, held in Assembly Appropriations Committee	2-year bill
Farmworker and Food Chain Worker Advancement				
AB 694 (McKinnor)	Support	Strengthening CA's Health and Safety Enforcement Workforce	Held in Senate Appropriations Committee	✗ Loss
Agroecological Farming				
AB 524 (Wilson)	Support	Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act	Vetoed by the Governor	✗ Loss

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Roots of Change and the California Food Policy Council for starting this legislative tracker thirteen years ago to hold our legislators accountable for ensuring a healthy and fair food and farming system. View past issues at foodfarmnetwork.org/resources

Regional Food Ecosystems

SB 18 (Rubio) – “Food Desert Elimination Program” – Oppose Unless Amended



As written, it would have created a state program to prioritize funneling money into large corporate grocery store chains—the same companies that often abandon low-income food-insecure communities and hike up food prices. Our network asked for amendments to include community voice, prioritize community and Tribal-based grocers, and support fair-labor employers instead. Amendments were not taken.

Died in Assembly Appropriations Committee

Healthy Food Access

AB 1049 (Rodriguez) – California Food Assistance Program – Sponsor Deeming – Support

2-Year Process

Will remove sponsor deeming from the eligibility determination process for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), streamlining enrollment into food benefits and reducing chilling effect for sponsored immigrants as part of the Food4All campaign.

In 2-year process, held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 225 (McNerney) – Summer Caregiver Meals – Support



Would have ensured parents and caregivers can have a meal with their child when they visit a summer meal site by requiring the State Department of Education to reimburse summer meal program operators for caregiver meals. Included a \$6M budget ask to pilot this at summer meal sites located at public libraries.

Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

SB 411 (Pérez) – Stop Child Hunger Act – Support



Would have addressed the gap in access to school meals by ensuring California maximizes federal SUN Bucks and streamlines both families' access and schools' administrative processes through the implementation of a single statewide web application.

Vetoed by the Governor

Farmworker and Food Chain Worker Advancement

AB 694 (McKinnor) – Strengthening CA's Health and Safety Enforcement Workforce – Support



Would have required CalOSHA to contract with UCLA and UCB to convene an Advisory Committee of experts and produce a report to make recommendations to increase and diversify CalOSHA's enforcement positions through a workforce development pipeline program. This bill had an accompanying budget ask of \$1.25 million.

Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

CFFN provides backbone support for the California Farmworker Coalition, which makes policy changes for workers on the issues that are most important to them, while building the power within grassroots organizations so that farmworker communities can set the priorities of California state government on farmworker issues. Learn more here: <https://cafarmworkercoalition.org/>

Agroecological Farming

AB 524 (Wilson) – Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act – Support



Would have created the first statewide program in California dedicated to agricultural land security, administered by the Department of Conservation in consultation with the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force. The program would have provided technical assistance, infrastructure, and financial resources to purchase and secure land with long-term leases for land transfer to beginning & underserved farmers and Tribal communities. This bill was designed to capture \$30 million in the Prop 4 Climate Bond directed towards this issue.

Vetoed by the Governor

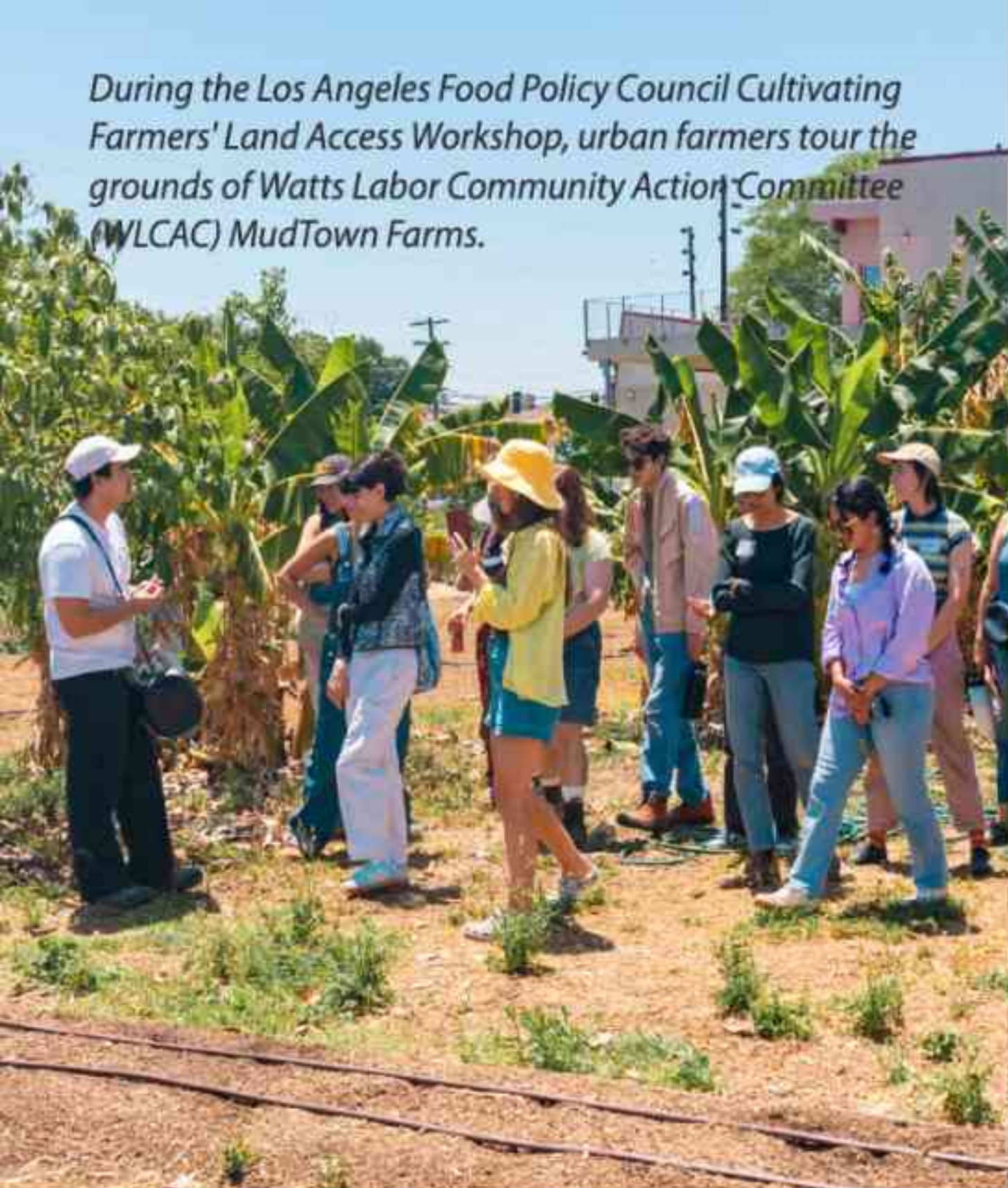


Farm pup on a stroll through the fields.
Shot at JR Organics Farm in Escondido



The Farm2People team touring Gaytan Family Farms with Maricela in Riverside

During the Los Angeles Food Policy Council Cultivating Farmers' Land Access Workshop, urban farmers tour the grounds of Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) MudTown Farms.



The 2025 California Food and Farm Policy Champions

California leaders have an opportunity to build the system we imagine, even in the face of federal attacks, threats from climate change, racial inequities, and public health crises. In fact, food and farm policies can help mitigate and transform these crises. In a Legislature with 120 elected officials, many champions for change to California's agriculture and food system are needed. This year, we recognize Assemblymember Alex Lee and Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, who are joining our growing list of honored legislators.

Alumni Food and Farm Policy Champions

2016:

Assemblymember Eggman
Assemblymember Ting
Senator Leno
Senator Wolk

2017:

Assemblymember Chiu
Senator McGuire

2018:

Senator Lara
Senator Monning

2019:

Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember Limón

2021:

Assemblymember R. Rivas
Senator Skinner
Assemblymember Bloom

2022:

Assemblymember Bennett
Assemblymember Wicks

2023:

Assemblymember Wilson
Senator Menjivar

2024:

Assemblymember Bonta
Assemblymember Connolly

Assemblymember Alex Lee

Alex Lee was elected to the State Assembly in 2020, representing the 24th Assembly district, which includes areas of Milpitas, San Jose, and Fremont. During his tenure he has been a strong champion on both farmworker, small farmer and food access issues. In 2023, he authored AB 652, establishing an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee at the Department of Pesticide Regulation, where he unwaveringly pushed back on heavy Big Ag industry opposition. For the last two years, he has been a champion for the CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT program, securing \$10M in FY24-25 and \$36M in FY25-26. This past year, he demonstrated his thought leadership as he co-convened the 2025 Joint Informational Hearing on food insecurity and CA agriculture with the Assembly Human Services and Agriculture Committees. He has made commitments into 2026 on continuing to prioritize the important nexus of food access and small, community farmers. Through his Chair position in the Assembly Human Services Committee, member of the budget subcommittee for human services, and Chair of the Progressive Caucus, he has bravely been pushing the envelope of the status quo from the get go.



Senator Sasha Renée Pérez

Sasha Renée Pérez was elected to the State Senate in 2024, representing the 25th Senate district, which includes Claremont, East Pasadena, and portions of San Bernardino County. Within her first year, she has quickly asserted herself as a leader in not only food systems but environmental health and community wellness. She authored the Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025 (SB 411), which would have addressed the gap in access to school meals by ensuring California maximizes federal SUN Bucks and streamlines both families' access and schools' administrative processes through the implementation of a single statewide web application. She championed School Meals for All, providing supportive comments throughout the budget committee hearings. And, in a time when immigrant communities are under attack, she has authored and supported legislation that aims to protect immigrant communities. As Chair of the Education Committee, she has authored SB 341 which would create a program and fund to support school garden programming. She also supported our main farmworker legislation, AB 694, through her committee.



Record of votes—Senate

Position	Score	AB 524			AB 694		AB 1049	SB 225	SB 411		
		S			S		S	S	S		
Committee votes		Nat Res	Ag	Flr	LPE&R	ED	Held in Assembly	ED	ED	HS	Flr
Allen, Ben (D-24)	100%	✓		✓							✓
Alvarado-Gil, Marie (R-04)	33%		NVR	NVR							✓
Archuleta, Bob (D-30)	100%			✓							✓
Arreguín, Jesse (D-07)	100%			✓						✓	✓
Ashby, Angelique (D-08)	100%			✓							✓
Becker, Josh (D-13)	100%			✓						✓	✓
Blakespear, Catherine (D-38)	100%			✓							✓
Cabaldon, Christopher (D-03)	100%			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Caballero, Anna (D-14)	100%			✓							✓
Cervantes, Sabrina (D-31)	100%			✓							✓
Choi, Steven "Steve" (R-37)	60%			✗		✗		✓	✓		✓
Cortese, Dave (D-15)	100%		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Dahle, Megan (R-01)	100%			✓							✓
Durazo, Maria Elena (D-26)	100%			✓	✓		Held in Assembly Appropriations, 2-Year Bill				✓
Gonzalez, Lena (D-33)	100%			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Grayson, Tim (D-09)	100%			✓							✓
Grove, Shannon (R-12)	67%	✓		NVR							✓
Hurtado, Melissa (D-16)	100%	✓	✓	✓							✓
Jones, Brian W. (R-40)	50%			NVR							✓
Laird, John (D-17)	100%	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Limón, Monique (D-19)	100%	✓		✓						✓	✓
McGuire, Mike (D-02)	100%			✓							✓
McNerney, Jerry (D-05)	100%		✓	✓							✓
Menjivar, Caroline (D-20)	100%			✓							✓
Niello, Roger (R-6)	50%			✗							✓
Ochoa Bogh, Rosilicie (R-23)	67%			✗		✓		NVR	✓	✓	✓
Padilla, Steve (D-18)	100%		✓	✓							✓
Pérez, Sasha Renée (D-25)	100%			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Reyes Gómez, Eloise (D-29)	100%			✓							✓
Richardson, Laura (D-35)	100%			✓							✓
Rubio, Susan (D-22)	67%			✓							✓
Seyarto, Kelly (R-32)	33%	✗		✗							✓
Smallwood-Cuevas, Lola (D-28)	100%			✓	✓						✓
Stern, Henry (D-27)	100%	✓		✓							✓
Strickland, Tony (R-36)	33%			✗	✗						✓
Umberg, Thomas (D-34)	100%			✓							✓
Valladares, Suzette Martinez (R-23)	50%			NVR							✓
Wahab, Aisha (D-10)	100%			✓							✓
Weber Pierson, Akilah (D-39)	100%			✓							✓
Wiener, Scott (D-11)	100%			✓							✓
Governor Newsom	0%	Vetoed			NA		NA	NA	Vetoed		

Scoring Methodology

This year, we scored 6 bills. Our scorecard considers policy committees and floor votes, equally weighted. We used the original floor votes, unless otherwise noted. Votes in alignment with a CFFN position counted towards a legislator's score, while votes contradicting a CFFN position counted against a legislator's score. Abstained votes (indicated as 'NVR') are considered a no-vote and scored in alignment with a CFFN position (either - or +). A bonus point (equally weighted) is given to lead authors of a supported bill and/or budget item and subtracted for an opposed bill. We did not score SB 18 in its first house because we did not have a public position at the time, while we tried to work with the author on amendments. The Governor was scored on just 2 bills that made it to his desk this year.

✓ Vote in alignment with CFFN position

✗ Vote contradicted CFFN position

NVR = No Vote Recorded

EA = Excused Absence

S = Support

0 = Oppose unless amended

Record of votes—Assembly

Committee Name Key

Ag= Agriculture

ED= Education

Flr=Floor

Higher ED= Higher Education

HS= Human Services

L&E= Labor and Employment

LPE&R= Labor, Public Employment and Retirement

Nat Res= Natural Resources & Water

✓ Vote in alignment with CFFN position

✗ Vote contradicted CFFN position

● Vacant

NVR = No Vote Recorded

EA = Excused Absence

S = Support

0 = Oppose unless amended

	Score	AB 524		AB 694			AB 1049	SB 18	SB 225	SB 411		
Position		S		S			S	0	S	S		
Committee votes		Ag	Flr	L&E	Higher Ed	Flr	HS	Ag	Held	ED	HS	Flr
Addis, Dawn (D-30)	100%		✓			✓				✓		✓
Aguiar-Curry, Cecilia M. (D-04)	100%	✓	✓			✓		NVR				✓
Ahrens, Patrick J. (D-26)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Alanis, Juan (R-22)	80%	✓	✓			✓		✗				✓
Alvarez, David (D-80)	100%		✓			✓				✓		✓
Arambula, Dr. Joaquin (D-31)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Ávila Farías, Anamarie (D-15)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Bains, Jasmeet (D-35)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Bauer-Kahan, Rebecca (D-16)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Bennett, Steve (D-38)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Berman, Marc (D-23)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Boerner Horvath, Tasha (D-76)	100%		✓		✓	✓						✓
Bonta, Mia (D-18)	100%		✓			✓				✓		✓
Bryan, Isaac (D-55)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Calderon, Lisa (D-56)	100%		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓
Caloza, Jessica M. (D-52)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Carrillo, Juan (D-39)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Castillo, Leticia (D-58)	83%		✓			✓	✗			✓	✓	✓
Chen, Phillip (R-59)	100%		✓	✓		✓						✓
Connolly, Damon (D-12)	80%	✓	✓			✓		✗				✓
Davies, Laurie (R-74)	100%		✓			✓						✓
DeMaio, Carl (R-75)	50%		✓		NVR	✗						✓
Dixon, Diane (R-72)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Elhawary, Sade (D-57)	100%		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
Ellis, Stan (R-32)	67%		NVR			✓						✓
Flora, Heath (R-09)	100%		✓	✓		✓						✓
Fong, Mike (D-49)	100%		✓		✓	✓						✓
Gabriel, Jesse (D-46)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Gallagher, James (R-03)	67%		✓			NVR						✓
Garcia, Robert (D-50)	100%		✓			✓				✓		✓
Gipson, Mike (D-65)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Gonzalez, Jeff (R-36)	83%	✓	✓		✓	✓		✗				✓
González, Mark (D-54)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Hadwick, Heather (R-01)	80%	✓	✓			✓		✗				✓
Haney, Matt (D-17)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Harabedian, John (D-41)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Hart, Gregg (D-37)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Hoover, Josh, (R-07)	100%		✓			✓				✓		✓
Irwin, Jacqui (D-42)	80%	✓	✓			✓		✗				✓
Jackson, Corey (D-60)	100%		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓

Held in Assembly Appropriations



	Score	AB 524		AB 694			AB 1049	SB 18	SB 225	SB 411		
Committee votes		Ag	Flr	L&E	Higher Ed	Flr	HS	Ag	Held	ED	HS	Flr
Johnson, Natasha (R-63)	50%		NVR			●						✓
Kalra, Ash (D-25)	100%		✓	✓		✓						✓
Krell, Maggy (D-06)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Lackey, Tom (R-34)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Lee, Alex (D-24)	100%		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
Lowenthal, Josh (D-69)	100%		✓			✓				✓		✓
Macedo, Alexandra M. (R-33)	67%		NVR			✓						✓
McKinnor, Tina (D-61)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Muratsuchi, Al (D-66)	100%		✓		✓	✓				✓		✓
Nguyen, Stephanie (D-10)	100%		✓			✓						EA
Ortega, Liz (D-20)	100%		✓	✓		✓						✓
Pacheco, Blanca (D-64)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Papan, Diane (D-21)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Patel, Dr. Darshana R. (D-76)	100%		✓		✓	✓				✓		✓
Patterson, Joe (R-05)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Pellerin, Gail (D-28)	100%		✓			✓			Held in Assembly Appropriations			✓
Petrie-Norris, Cottie (D-73)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Quirk-Silva, Sharon (D-67)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Ramos, James C. (D-45)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Ransom, Rhodesia (D-13)	80%	✓	✓			✓		✗				✓
Rivas, Robert (D-29)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Rodriguez, Celeste (D-43)	100%		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Rodriguez, Michelle (D-53)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Rogers, Chris (D-02)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Rubio, Blanca (D-48)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Sanchez, Kate (R-71)	33%		NVR			NVR						✓
Schiavo, Pilar (D-40)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Schultz, Nick (D-44)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Sharp-Collins, Dr. LaShae (D-79)	100%		✓		✓	✓						✓
Solache Jr., José Luis (D-62)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Soria, Esmeralda (D-27)	80%	✓	✓			✓		✗				✓
Stefani, Catherine (D-19)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Ta, Tri (R-70)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Tangipa, David J. (R-08)	100%		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
Valencia, Avelino (D-68)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Wallis, Greg (D-47)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Ward, Chris (D-78)	100%		✓	✓		✓						✓
Wicks, Buffy (D-14)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Wilson, Lori D. (D-11)	100%		✓			✓						✓
Zbur, Rick Chavez (D-51)	100%		✓			✓						✓

*Hukama Produce in Ramona, CA -
Owner, Byron on the farm*



*The Farm2People team with Raul Jr., Mariela, and Luis from
Raul and Family Farms on a farm tour in Riverside*



*Alyssa and Christian in the field in
Ranchito Milkyway in Bonita, CA*



*Carrots being washed in Ranchito
Milkyway in Bonita, CA*



Contact information

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