

[New Legislation](#) | [Legislative Updates](#) | [Budget Updates](#) | [Redistricting/Elections](#) | [U.S Congress](#)

## New Legislation

[AB41](#) | Assemblymembers Wood (D-[AD02](#)), Aguiar-Curry (D-[AD04](#)), Garcia (D-[AD56](#)), & Dahle (D-[AD01](#))  
*Broadband Infrastructure Deployment*

"The commission, in collaboration with relevant state agencies and stakeholders, shall maintain and update a statewide, publicly accessible, and interactive map showing the accessibility of broadband service in the state, including, but not limited to, information identifying the percentage of each census block that has broadband service meeting federal and state standards." ([SECTION 2](#))

**GIS Concerns:** How will this map be developed? Who are the "relevant state agencies and stakeholders?" If no deadline was specified for the maps, how is the commission held accountable for this task? See [here](#) for a look at the difference between federal and state standards.

*Passed by Assembly 70-1 and sent to Assembly June 1. Passed by Senate 38-0 with amendments. Assembly concurred; bill sent to engrossing and enrolling Sept 10. Presented to governor Sept 22.*

## Legislative Updates

*Each bill number links to the newsletter in which it was introduced. Amendments are in red.*

- ❖ **August 26** was the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.
- ❖ **September 3** was the last day to amend bills on the floor.
- ❖ **September 10** was the last day for any bill to be passed.

[SB66](#) (CA Council Future of Transportation): **Passed (11-0)** by Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee on [July 7](#) (2hr6min)  
Placed on suspense file at August 19 Appropriations hearing  
**\*Held in Committee** at Appropriations August 26 hearing

[SB109](#) (Wildfire Tech R&D): **Passed (7-0)** by Assembly Emergency Management Committee on [July 5](#)  
**Passed (13-0) as Amended** at Assembly Appropriations August 26 hearing  
**Amended** on August 30 to be in Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
**Passed (62-0)** in Assembly September 1 and **39-0** in Senate September 2  
Presented to governor on September 9  
**\*Signed by the governor September 23**

## Budgetary Updates

- ❖ **July 1** was the first day of the 2021-2022 fiscal year
- ❖ Gov. Newsom signed [SB129](#), the main budget bill, on July 12.
- ❖ **Trailer bills** and budget amendments continued to be negotiated until most of them were passed on July 15, before the legislature's summer recess.
- ❖ **Budget Challenges** this year:
  - Stark contrast from last year – large surplus from tax revenues and federal assistance
  - It's harder to *spend* money than *cut* funding
  
- ❖ **CLIMATE ACTION BUDGET PACKAGES:** [AB161](#), an amendment to the 2021 Budget Act (AB128), included non-itemized dollar amounts for the packages below. The [Dept. of Finance's Budget Addendum](#) summarizes the itemized bills signed into law by the governor on September 23.
  - Wildfire & Forest Resiliency
    - SB161: \$258 million; \$500 million over 2 years
    - Budget Addendum: \$988 for 2021-2022
      - LiDAR – increased from \$15 million to \$25 million
  - Water & Drought Resiliency
    - SB161 - \$730.7 million
    - Budget Addendum: over \$3.5 billion slated for 2021-2022
      - Includes \$127 million for “Data, Research, and Communication”
  - Climate Resiliency
    - SB161 - \$440 million in 2021-22; \$3.7 billion over 3 years
    - Budget Addendum: \$369
      - \$5 million will go to [Cal-Adapt](#) Mapping (see [Q2 report](#) for more details)
  - *Energy & Transportation packages were deferred to next year's budget*
  
- ❖ **BROADBAND:** On July 12, a plan was announced to spend \$6 billion (across multiple years) on building broadband infrastructure in underserved areas of California. (\$4.3 billion for 2021-22 alone.) [SB156](#), passed July 15 and signed July 20, lays out the details:
  - \$3.25 billion to build a state-owned 8,000-mile high-speed network (middle-mile)
    - Office of Broadband & Digital Literacy overseen by the Dept of Technology
    - Deputy Director of Broadband as central POC
    - Establishes Broadband Advisory Council
    - Entire appropriation for 2021-22
  - \$2 billion in grants for service providers to build fiber networks in hard-to-reach (last-mile) areas
    - Funds split in half between rural and urban counties
    - “Expands the list of local agencies authorized to provide broadband internet access service to include counties, local education agencies, tribal governments, joint power authorities, and electrical cooperatives” ([source](#): page 158)
  - \$750 million in loan-loss funds to local governments to build out their own networks
  
- \*\*Whether or not the plan will prioritize “worst first” is [still to be determined](#)
  - Governor defines “unserved” areas as those with no options for 25/3mbps & up
  - California Public Utilities Commission proposes a 100Mbps download standard

## Redistricting & Elections

### ❖ California Redistricting Commission - [Website](#)

- The commission received the [official redistricting database](#) from the state on September 21. First map drafts are due **November 13**.
- On August 20, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission [petitioned](#) the California Supreme Court to push the deadline for *certifying* new maps to Jan. 14, 2022 (from December 15, 2021).
  - On September 22, the Supreme Court [extended](#) the deadline to **December 27**
- Line drawing is performed by two firms – [Haystag DNA](#) and [Q2 Data & Research, LLC](#)
- The silver lining of the pandemic-induced extended timeline was more citizen participation: 2000+ people attended 30+ [Communities of Interest meetings](#).
- Check out this “[Redistricting Spotlight](#)” from [Redistricting Partners](#) which highlights important questions the Commission must consider as they carry out their obligations.
  - *Subscribe [here](#) to receive additional Spotlights.*
- Citizens can continue to submit boundary proposals to the commission [here](#).

### ❖ Geo-Enabled Election Language

- NSGIC has published [model statutory language](#) for embedding geospatial technology into state-level election administration law. It can be used by states looking to leverage GIS technology in their elections. It also addresses administrative boundaries and address points, pertinent issues in their own right. This publication is a part of NSGIC's [Geo-Enabled Elections](#) project.

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## Federal Legislation (U.S. Congress)

The following are federal bills introduced in this quarter:

### [SB2400](#) | Reconciliation in Place Names Act

*Notes: a New Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names will advise the Board on Geographic Names in renaming offensive place names; House companion: [HB4454](#)*

### [SB2650](#) | Wildfire Resilient Communities Act

*Notes: directs the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to make a map depicting at-risk communities to assist these communities in better planning and preparing for wildfires*

### [SB2670](#) | Redistricting Reform Act of 2021

*Notes: attempts to stop partisan gerrymanders by requiring states to set up independent redistricting commissions (California has this already!)*

### [HB4605](#) | Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Interagency Technology Act of 2021

*Notes: Directs FEMA to coordinate with other agencies to update NFIP maps*

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### Links to Past Editions:

[December 2020](#)

[Quarter 1 2021](#)

[Quarter 2 2021](#)