

San Francisco Heavy Equipment & Trucking Academy Launches, Creating New Career Pathways

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The San Francisco Heavy Equipment & Trucking Academy (SF HEAT) officially launched on July 14th, 2026, with a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of its new training facility in District 10.

Founded by Tana Harris, president of Harris Hoisting, and Michael Gregory, co-founder of HVYW8 Trucking Inc., SF HEAT is a workforce development and training program introducing San Francisco residents to careers in commercial driving, heavy equipment operation, and logistics through hands-on learning and real-world industry exposure. The academy's 10-week workforce training program includes CDL test



District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the San Francisco Heavy Equipment & Trucking Academy's new training facility in Bayview Hunters Point.

preparation, heavy equipment exposure, career coaching, workforce development, and opportunities to connect with industry leaders and employers.

Located at the former Potrero Power Station, SF

HEAT focuses on supporting communities that have historically been excluded from workforce opportunities within the trucking and

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Bayview Resident Shavonne Hines Foster Appointed to Southeast Community Commission

San Francisco Bayview resident Shavonne Hines Foster was recently appointed by Mayor Daniel Lurie to the Southeast Community Facility Commission, bringing a young public affairs professional with deep ties to San Francisco civic life to the city body serving southeast communities.

Hines Foster was among a group of civic leaders appointed or reappointed by Lurie to city boards, commissions and other key roles. Her appointment to the Southeast Community Facility Commission was announced July 31.

A public affairs professional, Hines Foster has built experience in San Francisco government through a multi-year internship with the Office of the President of the Board of Supervisors, as well as internships with the ACLU of Northern California and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. She



Bayview resident Shavonne Hines Foster, pictured with her mother, businesswoman Yvonne Hines, was appointed by Mayor Daniel Lurie to the Southeast Community Facility Commission.

also previously served as a student delegate on the San Francisco Board of Education.

Her civic engagement began while she was a student. Hines Foster served as student government association president and was the founding president of Black Girls Vote. She also held fellowships with the Campus Vote Project and the In Our Own Voice Next Generation Leadership

Institute. In 2024, she received the Brandon Harrison Youth Visionary Award.

Hines Foster graduated from Hampton University in May 2025 with a bachelor's degree in political science with a pre-law concentration. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in public affairs at Brown University.

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A Year Without Groceries: The Fillmore's Empty Safeway Leaves a Community Waiting

Edward Henderson | California Black Media

The Safeway at 1335 Webster Street has been dark since February 2025. Eighteen months later, the Fillmore still has no full-service grocery store — and no agreement on how to get one.

Three grocers looked at the site and walked away. Grocery Outlet proposed a scaled-down temporary store in January 2025, offering \$400,000 a year in rent. By April, the deal was dead. Smart & Final explored a temporary lease and declined. Sprouts kicked the tires and moved on.

The problem, according to reporting by the San Francisco Standard, was money. Getting the building running again would cost \$2 million to \$4 million — numbers that don't work for an operator planning to stay two or three years. Safeway removed the freezers before it



For seniors, disabled residents, and families without cars, the closure means long trips for basic food. Majeid Crawford of the New Community Leadership Foundation has called the situation devastating for the residents least able to absorb it.

left, which didn't help.

Supervisor Bilal Mahmood says the problem is Safeway itself. He contends the company obstructed negotiations with replacement grocers, and he wants the city to do something about it: a ballot measure that would tax vacant grocery stores and use the money

to subsidize new operators. Mayor Daniel Lurie opposes new taxes, arguing they make it harder to open grocery stores, not easier.

Align Real Estate, which bought the property, plans a mixed-use development with more than 1,800 housing units and a ground-floor grocery.

Longtime BWOPA Member Brendalynn Goodall Appointed to California Workforce Development Board

Edward Henderson | California Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed longtime Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) member Brendalynn Goodall to the California Workforce Development Board.

Goodall, an Oakland resident with decades of experience in public service, has held leadership positions focused on employment, aging services and assistance for underserved communities.

BWOPA California celebrated the appointment, describing Goodall as a dedicated advocate for workers, families and older adults.

“Her appointment reflects a lifetime of leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to strengthening



Brendalynn Goodall

California's workforce and expanding opportunity for all,” the organization stated in a press release.

Goodall served as summer jobs program coordinator in the Oakland Mayor's Office from 2012 to 2014. In that position, she helped connect young people with employment opportunities and job experience.

Before joining the Mayor's Office, Goodall was division manager for Aging and Adult Services in the City of Oakland Human Services Department from 2002 to 2011.

She previously served as senior services supervisor and program director for the city's Department of Aging, Health and Human Services from 1990 to 2002.

Bill Requiring Public Notices to Be Published in Newspapers’ Print Editions Heads to Gov. Newsom’s Desk

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Assembly Bill (AB) 2323, legislation by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) that would modernize how newspapers publish legally mandated public notices is headed to Gov. Gavin Newsom for consideration.

AB 2323, co-authored by Assemblymember Diane Dixon (R-Newport Beach), cleared the Legislature after the Assembly voted 75-0 on Aug. 7 to concur with Senate amendments. Newsom can sign or veto the measure.

“For decades, legal notices have been published in independent newspapers, creating a trusted third-party record the public can rely on,” McKinnor said. “As more Californians access information online, this bill ensures our public notice systems evolve without compromising public access to important information. AB 2323 has received bipartisan support.”

California law requires certain public notices — including estate notices, foreclosure announcements and local government ordinances — to be published in adjudicated newspapers of

general circulation. Sometimes called legal advertisements, public notices are intended to promote transparency, protect individual rights and formally inform communities about government and private actions that may affect them.

AB 2323 would require those notices to appear in both a newspaper’s print edition and on its website or electronic newspaper. The measure is intended to expand digital access while preserving an independent, third-party record of public notices.

The bill has received broad support from ethnic media organizations and local newspaper publishers, who say it will help the public notice system adapt as print readership declines.

AB 2323 would prohibit newspapers from charging readers a separate fee to access public notices online. It would also prohibit publishers from charging advertisers an additional fee specifically to post legally required notices online. Newspapers could continue using paywalls, subscriptions or one-time passes for other content.

The measure does not address the newspaper industry’s broader financial challenges. However, supporters say it would preserve a historically

important, government-mandated revenue stream by maintaining the print publication requirement while expanding access online.

“AB 2323 is really needed because as we look at what’s happening online on the Internet, on our social media, we can’t believe everything we see,” McKinnor said. “It’s tremendously important that we keep print news because it’s factual. That’s where our people can go, and we can get the facts. This bill is extremely important.”

AB 2323 initially faced opposition during committee review. The California Special Districts Association raised concerns about increased costs for local governments and the required use of public funds to pay private newspaper companies.

Under California law, special districts must publish certain legally required notices — including meeting announcements, public works bid solicitations and election deadlines — in newspapers of general circulation.

Representing the association, Marcus Detwiler told the Assembly Judiciary Committee, chaired by Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), on March 24 that the group “respectfully opposed (AB 2323) unless amended.”

The association sought clarification that local agencies and special districts would not be required to pay additional fees or surcharges for publishing notices both in print and online. That concern was addressed through amendments adopted in June.

Dr. John Warren, publisher of the San Diego Voice and Viewpoint, told California Black Media (CBM) that Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signature on AB 2323 would help to continue protecting press freedom and ensuring citizens receive essential government information.

“The governor’s signing of AB 2323 would represent a major step toward upholding the First and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution, as well as protections guaranteed under the California Constitution,” Warren said.

“The publishing of government public notices in independent newspapers and online “guarantees” transparency by keeping information accessible, archivable, and verifiable outside of direct government control,” Dr. Warren added. “The practice supports journalism financially and editorially by providing critical revenue and serving as an untapped source for local investigative reporting.”

The debate over AB



The bill has received broad support from ethnic media organizations and local newspaper publishers, who say it will help the public notice system adapt as print readership declines.

2323 comes as the U.S. newspaper industry faces mounting financial pressures caused by declining print advertising, competition from digital platforms and changing consumer habits.

According to the Expanding News Desert, or END, California has more than 1,400 historical and active newspapers listed across its 58 counties. State legislative monitoring from mid-2026 estimates that 300 to 350 ethnic media outlets operate across print, digital and broadcast platforms.

END is a research project and interactive database that tracks the decline of local journalism and the closure of newspapers across

the United States.

Although California has a large number of media outlets, access to local print journalism continues to shrink because of industrywide consolidation, according to END. Its data shows that at least two California counties have lost all local newspaper circulation, while 12 counties have only one publication.

Newspapers charge fees to publish legal notices, providing them with an important source of revenue. Supporters of the current system argue that publishing the notices in independent newspapers also creates a neutral, verifiable and permanent record of government activity.

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On Your November Ballot: Prop 5 Would Reshape How California Conducts Recall Elections

Austin Gage | California Black Media

California voters will decide this November whether to change how the state replaces elected officials who are removed from office through a recall election.

Proposition (Prop) 5 would eliminate the current system in which voters simultaneously decide whether to recall a state official and choose that official’s potential replacement.

Instead, the recall ballot would contain only the yes-or-no question about removing the official. If the recall succeeds, the vacancy would be filled later under procedures established by the California Constitution and state law.

Under the current system, voters answer two questions on the same ballot. The first asks whether the targeted official should be recalled. The second asks voters to select a successor who would take office if the recall passes. The replacement candidate who receives the most votes wins, even without support from a majority of voters.

Prop 5 would remove that second question from the recall ballot. Depending on the office, the vacancy would be filled by appointment,

succession or a subsequent special election.

The proposed constitutional amendment would also allow a recalled official to run for the same office in a later special election. However, that person could not be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the recall.

The Legislature placed the measure on the ballot after approving Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 1, authored by former state Sen. Josh Newman and co-authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights).

California voters established the state’s recall process in 1911. Since 1913, there have been 182 attempts to recall state elected officials, according to the California Secretary of State’s Office. Eleven collected enough signatures to qualify for the ballot, and six resulted in an official’s removal.

The most recent statewide recall election targeted Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2021. Nearly 62% of voters opposed removing him. The last successful recall of a state official occurred in 2018, when voters removed Newman from the state Senate and elected Republican Ling Ling Chang to replace him.

Prop 5 contains specific provisions governing a

gubernatorial recall. If a governor were recalled, the lieutenant governor generally would become governor for the remainder of the term.

However, if the recall occurs before the close of the nomination period for the next statewide election during the first two years of the governor’s term, a special election would be consolidated with the next statewide primary. The candidate who receives a majority of the vote would serve the rest of the term. If no candidate wins a majority, the two candidates receiving the most votes would advance to a runoff at the following statewide general election.

The measure would also transfer responsibility for carrying out a gubernatorial recall from the lieutenant governor to the secretary of state. If the governor and secretary of state faced recalls at the same time, the state controller would oversee their recall-related duties.

Supporters include Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Bryan and Newman. The California Democratic Party, California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters of California also support the measure.

Newman and Bryan argue that the existing process could allow a replacement candidate

with less than majority support to take office.

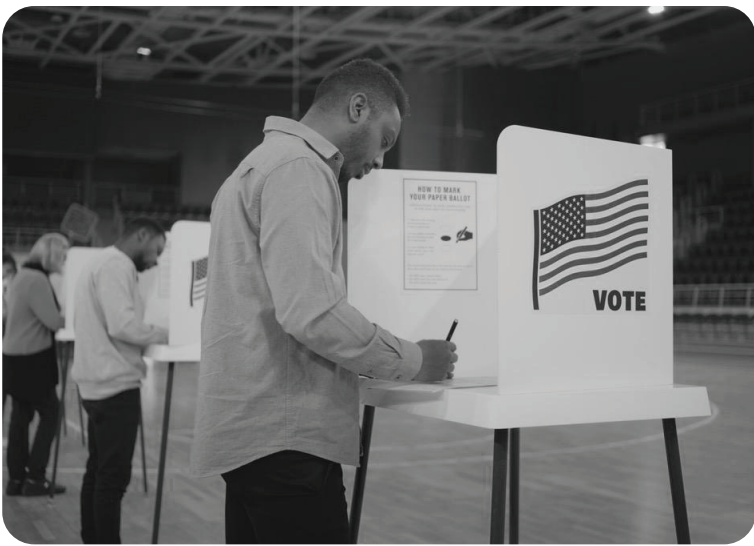
“The system in its current form offers bad actors an incentive to target an elected official with whom they disagree and to have the official replaced by someone who otherwise would not enjoy the support of a majority of voters,” they said in a statement supporting SCA 1.

“SCA 1 will ensure that statewide and legislative recalls in California are democratic, fair, and not subject to political gamesmanship,” the statement reads.

California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters of California have also argued that the current two-question ballot can confuse voters.

“Voters have expressed deep confusion as to whether they are permitted to vote for a replacement candidate if they vote ‘no’ on the first question,” the organizations said. “The perplexing system can cause people to refrain from answering the second question, thereby disenfranchising voters and contributing to an undervote for replacement candidates.”

The organizations said the amendment would preserve voters’ ability to recall officials while making recall outcomes more representative of majority support.



Prop 5 will appear on the ballot in California’s Nov. 3, 2026, general election. The measure is one of 14 statewide propositions voters will consider.

Election Integrity Project California opposes the proposal. The organization argues that allowing the lieutenant governor to assume the governorship after a successful recall could undermine voters’ intention to change the state’s leadership because the governor and lieutenant governor often share similar political views and policy priorities.

“The proposal of SCA 1 that the lieutenant governor simply assume the governorship in the event of a successful recall would make a gubernatorial recall effort a ‘frying pan vs. the fire’ situation,” the organization stated.

It also argued that the change would diminish voters’ control over who replaces a

recalled governor and it would discourage participation in the political process.

A “yes” vote on Prop 5 would amend the California Constitution to eliminate successor contests from recall elections involving state officials. Vacancies would instead be filled under existing constitutional and statutory procedures.

A “no” vote would preserve the current system, under which voters decide whether to remove a state official and choose a potential successor during the same recall election.

Prop 5 will appear on the ballot in California’s Nov. 3, 2026, general election. The measure is one of 14 statewide propositions voters will consider.

Three Black Women Among Gov. Newsom’s Recent Judicial Appointments

Austin Gage | California Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom has nominated three Black women — Justice Rashida Adams and Judges Denise Hippach and Juliet Macaulay — to serve on California Courts of Appeal.

They are among eight appellate court nominees recently announced by Newsom. The governor also appointed nine Superior Court

judges across five counties.

Adams, of Los Angeles County, was nominated as presiding justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division Three. She has served as an associate justice on the court since 2023 and previously served as a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge from 2017 to 2023.

Adams, who earned her law degree from Yale Law School, would succeed retired Justice Lee Edmon. Her term would

begin Jan. 4, 2027, subject to voter confirmation in the Nov. 3 general election.

Hippach, of San Luis Obispo County, was nominated as an associate justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division Six. She has served on the Santa Barbara County Superior Court since 2022 and previously worked in county counsel, attorney general, district attorney and appellate counsel offices. She earned her law degree from the University of Southern California

Gould School of Law.

Macaulay, of Orange County, was nominated as an associate justice of the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Three. She has served on the Orange County Superior Court since 2022. Previously, she was chief administrative law judge at the California Department of Social Services and held several positions with the California Board of Parole Hearings. She earned her law degree from the University of Ibadan.

Newsom’s other appellate nominees are David Sapp and Judge Lauri Damrell for the Third District; Judges Marsha Amin and Lisa Rodriguez for the Fourth District, Division One; and Judge Frederick Chung for the Sixth District.

The governor also appointed Justin Ford, Erin Murphy, Wilson Park and Maricela Segura to the Los Angeles County Superior Court; Timothy Mulhere in Riverside County; and Crystal Salumbides and

Brigid Campo in San Diego County. David Kim received an interim appointment in Sonoma County, and Phoebe Maffei received an interim appointment in San Francisco County.

The appellate nominations require confirmation by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. Each appellate position pays \$280,052 annually, while the Superior Court positions pay \$244,727.

Shavonne

Continued from page 1

The Southeast Community Facility Commission also includes Karen A. Chung

and Damien Posey, who were reappointed by Lurie. The commission was among several city bodies included in the mayor’s latest

round of appointments.

“Our administration is working every day to make San Francisco work better for our families and residents,”

Lurie said in announcing the appointments. “I appreciate this group of leaders for their continued service to San Francisco, and I look

forward to working with them to support the people and communities they will serve.”

For Hines Foster, the appointment adds another

SF HEAT

Continued from page 1

construction industries. The academy prioritizes residents of San Francisco’s Mission District (District 9), Bayview Hunters Point (District 10), and Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside, and Lakeview (District 11), as well as formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals, unemployed and underemployed residents, women entering the trades, and others seeking new career opportunities.

The ceremony included remarks from District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton; former District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai; Danilo Quintanilla, president of the San Francisco Deputy Sheriff’s Association; Nigel Staples, chief estimator at Pacific States; Meg-Anne Pryor, apprenticeship coordinator for Operating Engineers Local 3; Dr. Saidah Leatutufu-Burch, founder of SLB Strategies; and SF HEAT Co-Founders Tana Harris and Michael Gregory. Speakers addressed the importance of expanding workforce opportunities and

creating stronger pathways into the trucking and construction industries — for community, by community.

The event also brought together industry partners and supporters, including Enrique Landa, managing partner at Fifth Space. The program concluded with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of the new training facility.

“SF HEAT was created because we know talent already exists in our communities, but what’s often missing is access,” remarked Tana Harris,

Co-Founder of SF HEAT. “We wanted to build a place where San Franciscans can gain the skills, confidence, and industry connections they need to pursue meaningful careers in the trades.”

Adding his remarks, Michael Gregory, Co-Founder of SF HEAT, said, “As someone who built a career in this industry, I’ve seen firsthand how the trades can change the trajectory of a person’s life. SF HEAT is about opening those same doors for others, especially here in Bayview Hunters Point and throughout San Francisco. We’re not

just training workers; we’re investing in people, families, and the future of our city.”

SF HEAT’s inaugural training cohort began this week. The academy is also accepting applications for its Fall 2026 cohort, continuing its mission to connect more San Francisco residents with careers in commercial driving, heavy equipment operation, logistics, and the skilled trades.

About San Francisco Heavy Equipment & Trucking Academy (SF HEAT)

The San Francisco Heavy

Equipment & Trucking Academy (SF HEAT) is a workforce development and training program introducing San Francisco residents to careers in commercial driving, heavy equipment operation, and logistics through hands-on learning and real-world industry exposure. Founded by Tana Harris and Michael Gregory, SF HEAT is committed to expanding workforce access and career opportunities within the trucking and construction industries. For more information, visit sfheatacademy.com.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.
Too long have others spoken for us.
Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

There Are Some Lines You Don't Cross in Politics

By The Honorable Willie Brown

San Francisco politics has often been described as a knife fight in a phone booth. Having spent a life inside that phone booth, I can tell you the description is largely accurate. I have thrown my share of elbows and taken plenty in return. Politics is a tough business – no one who puts their name on the ballot should expect otherwise.

But there are still lines you don't cross. Senator Scott Wiener's decision to create an AI chatbot impersonating his opponent, Supervisor Connie Chan, crossed several.

The campaign built a website around an AI version of Chan, put her face on it and invited voters to have a conversation with a machine programmed to mock her. When prompted about Chan's accent, the chatbot responded that her "accent is so thick I can barely understand myself." When asked whether she was an American citizen, it dodged the question with a birther swipe, which Wiener shrugged off as a "joke".

He has since taken the site down for "maintenance" after widespread condemnation, but not before digging in his heels on the legitimacy of the attack. He has also yet

to formally apologize for the offense it caused.

I had the honor of serving as this city's first Black mayor. I came into politics at a time when candidates of color didn't have to imagine what racial caricatures looked like. We saw them every election cycle and every day in office and public life.

Over the years I have called out political tactics from both allies and enemies when I thought they crossed that line. You can appropriately hit somebody on their record. You can call them corrupt or incompetent or unfit for office. Believe me, there are plenty

of ways to make trouble for a political opponent without making their race, their accent or whether they belong in this country part of the punchline.

When I read about this episode, my thoughts immediately went to my late friend, Rose Pak.

Rose understood hardball politics better than almost anybody I ever met. She could throw a punch, take a punch and probably arrange for three more punches before her morning tea. But she spent her life demanding that San Francisco's Chinese community, especially its women, be treated as full participants in the political life of this city.

She knew there was a difference between playing rough and denying somebody's dignity.

Nancy Pelosi understands that distinction too. She and a slew of other Democratic women lawmakers condemned this foolish tactic, calling it out as a "gross misuse of technology," and rightly pointing out that women who have fought to have their own voices heard should not now have artificial intelligence putting words in their mouths.

If it stays offline, it was the right thing for Senator Weiner to finally take his



In 2026, legendary former San Francisco Mayor and California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown remains an active political voice, recently endorsing Tom Steyer for California Governor and Fiona Ma for Lieutenant Governor while continuing to weigh in on state and local politics

website down. But to do it after doubling down on his rhetoric, while attacking Speaker Emerita Pelosi after she joined other respected Bay Area leaders in calling him out on his sexist behavior, only reinforces what many of us feared when he launched his campaign: He is simply not ready to fill Pelosi's shoes.

A man confident in his record doesn't need a computer pretending to be his opponent. A man confident in his judgment can admit – right away – when an idea didn't work. A man interested in representing a city of immigrants must respect them, especially at a time when racist "jokes" have led to dangerous consequences for Americans of all backgrounds. And a man asking San Franciscans

for one of the highest honors and responsibilities they can bestow ought to be capable of hearing criticism without immediately looking for somebody else to blame.

Any politician that can not own up to a mistake and instead decides to double down by attacking one of San Francisco's most celebrated and revered leaders is clearly not fit to make decisions on our behalf.

Mr. Weiner must issue a formal apology to Supervisor Chan, Speaker Emerita Pelosi, the women leaders who rightfully spoke out, and the rest of the public offended by this ill-conceived stunt.

Then we can get back to the knife fight. At least there, everybody gets to speak for themselves.

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THE AMERICAN DREAM IS BEING REPOSSESSED

By Julianne Malveaux

The American Dream has always been sold as an installment plan: **work hard, save something, buy a home, educate your children, retire with dignity and, with a little luck, leave the next generation better off than you were.**

Black people knew the plan was rigged. We were denied mortgages, excluded from neighborhoods, underpaid at work and cheated out of land. Still, we continued to believe that education, persistence and plain old hard work might eventually pry open doors—as with the gradual increase of Black federal workers over the last century.

Now, even those doors are being slammed shut.

The National Urban League's 50th edition of its State of Black America report asks, "Is the American Dream dead?" The report documents how every attempt to guarantee life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness has been met with racism, social violence and political retrenchment.

I would state the problem differently. The American Dream may not be dead. It is being repossessed.

A repossession does not happen because the dream suddenly disappears. It happens after the terms have been changed, the payments have been raised, and the borrower

has been stripped of the means to keep up.

That is happening to working Americans now.

Homeownership—the primary source of wealth for most families—is increasingly out of reach. Rents have risen faster than many people's paychecks. Student debt burdens those who were told that education was their pathway to opportunity. Healthcare costs can turn one illness into a financial catastrophe. Grocery prices climb while wages lag. Retirement security is increasingly reserved for those who were already secure. For Black Americans, these pressures are layered on top of the racial wealth gap. White families were provided the opportunity to accumulate assets through federally supported homeownership, subsidized education and jobs that came with pensions. Black families were routinely denied access to those same wealth-building tools. We were told to catch up while others were given a head start.

We were told to save, even when our wages were lower.

We were told to buy homes, even when banks redlined our neighborhoods.

We were told to get an education, even when obtaining that education required us to assume more debt.

Then, when some Black people managed to overcome these barriers, diversity,

equity and inclusion (DEI) programs were blamed for giving us too much.

Too much? We have never had too much. We have had too little opportunity, too little inherited wealth and too little protection from discrimination.

The assault on DEI is not simply a cultural disagreement. It is an economic strategy. When corporations retreat from diversity commitments and government upends civil-rights enforcement, discrimination does not disappear. It becomes easier to practice and harder to prove.

Black women are again absorbing much of the damage. More than 300,000 Black women were pushed out the labor force during a three-month period in 2025, and scores of Black men lost jobs, while employment increased for White men, White women and Hispanic women. Some were casualties of federal downsizing. Others were affected by contracting opportunities, the attack on DEI and the instability those policies unleashed.

Black women did not suddenly lose their skills, their education or their work ethic. The economy changed the terms of the agreement.

The latest employment figures offer another familiar warning. The overall unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in June, while the White unemployment rate was 3.6 percent. Black unemployment has historically hovered around twice the

White rate. That disparity is not accidental. It is the accumulated result of who is hired first, promoted first—and dismissed first.

Government has an obligation to confront these inequities. Instead, civil-rights protections are being weakened, voting rights are under siege and the programs that keep working families afloat are treated as expendable.

This repossession is not confined to Black America. The same machinery that strips Black workers of opportunity eventually rolls through the rest of the working class. When unions are weakened, wages fall. When public education is starved, children suffer. When healthcare and food assistance are cut, hunger and illness spread. When voting rights are restricted, democracy shrinks for everyone.

Black America may be the canary in the economic coal mine, but eventually everybody breathes the poisoned air.

The National Urban League calls for three imperatives: **Defeat Poverty. Defend Democracy. Demand Diversity.** These are not separate goals. Poverty flourishes when democracy is weakened. Democracy deteriorates when inequality becomes entrenched (poverty). Diversity becomes threatening only when opportunity is treated as a scarce possession (poverty mindset) that must be reserved for a favored few (anti-democratic).



JULIANNE MALVEAUX

The American Dream was never equally available, but generations fought to widen it. They organized unions, marched for voting rights, challenged segregated schools and housing, and demanded fair employment. They understood that democracy does not run on autopilot.

If the dream is being repossessed, we cannot sit quietly on the curb while the tow truck pulls away.

We must demand fair wages, affordable housing, voting rights, civil-rights enforcement and accountability from corporations that profit from Black dollars while abandoning Black workers. We must use our economic power as deliberately as we use our political power.

The American Dream is not dead. But it is under assault. Whether we reclaim it—or replace it with something more just—depends on what we are willing to do now.



THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

Saul of Tarsus, the Unlikely Apostle

Devotional Reading: Psalm 86:1-10 *men of what thou has seen and heard –*
Background Scripture: Acts 7:58—8:3; *Acts 22:14-15*
9:1-31; 22:3-15

Key Text: “Ananias said, “*The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldst hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all*

of our patriarchal law. Being zealous for God, just as all of you are today, 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women in jail, 5 as both the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. After I received letters from them to the brothers, I traveled to Damascus to bring those who were prisoners there to be punished in Jerusalem. How much of Paul's rearing took place in Jerusalem is not known. The verb translated brought up means “educate.” One of his mentors was the beloved and esteemed Gamaliel (see Acts 5:34). Paul's point here is obvious. He had been thoroughly committed to the Law and to stamping out Christianity. His determination was so deep that only a radically supernatural transformation could change his viewpoint. Dr. Tony Evans wrote this explanation of what how Paul began to address the crowd that only moments before had been beating him to a pulp. They had become angry with him based on false pretenses, so Paul wanted to clarify who he was and what he had been doing. He began by explaining how much they had in common. He was a Jew, spoke Aramaic, had been educated by the great Pharisee Gamaliel, and had been zealous for the law (Acts 22:2–3). How zealous? He had persecuted this Way to the death (See Acts 22:4), “the Way” being an early

title given to Christianity. He had been concerned with nothing other than arresting, punishing, and jailing believers (see Acts 21:4–5). If anyone had wanted to destroy the Christian faith, it was Paul. If they doubted him, the Jewish high priest and council of elders could verify it all (See Acts 21:5). It was in Acts 22:6-11, Paul made the journey on the Damascus about noon and his life changed drastically. As I was travelling near Damascus, about noon an intense light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ 8 ‘I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ ‘He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, the One you are persecuting!’ 9 Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the One who was speaking to me. 10 ‘Then I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’ ‘And the Lord told me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything that is assigned for you to do.’ 11 ‘Since I couldn't see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. 12 Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good reputation with all the Jews residing there, 13 came and stood by me and said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight.’ And in that very hour I looked up and

saw him. 14 Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of His voice. 15 For you will be a witness for Him to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized and wash away your sins by calling on His name.’ Thank God for Jesus. One day, though, while he was pursuing the followers of Jesus, Paul ran right into Jesus himself! The risen and glorified Lord asked Paul, Why are you persecuting me?’ (See Acts 12:1-7; To persecute Christ's people, then, is to persecute Christ because the church is his body. Yet Jesus hadn't come to punish Paul; he had come to draft him into service to take his gospel message throughout the empire. Paul didn't learn this, though, until he obeyed God and went to Damascus to meet a believer named Ananias who healed him and gave him his marching orders to be a witness for [Christ] to all people (21:11–15). Paul was saved for a purpose, and the same is true of all believers. Christians are God's “workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10). The Lord didn't inform Paul about his purpose until he went to Damascus as commanded. Many Christians want to know God's purposes for their lives,

but they're unwilling to obey the clear commands that he's already given. But God hits a moving target. Follow God in faith; do what you already know you're supposed to do. By doing so, you'll show him that you're serious about pursuing him so that he can begin guiding, directing, and ordering your steps. When Paul return to Jerusalem, God commanded Paul to leave because he knew the Jews there wouldn't accept his testimony (22:17–18). (The Tony Evans Commentary and Bible Knowledge Commentary). In fact, they would seek to kill him (see Acts 9:28–30). But Paul thought he had a compelling testimony to share, since he had formerly imprisoned believers and approved of Stephen's death (22:19–20; see 7:54–8:3). Nevertheless, God had other plans for Paul: He would take the gospel to the Gentiles (22:21). What Paul said about the Ephesian church was also once true of most of us: “Remember that at one time you were Gentiles ... without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world” (Ephesian 2:11–12). But praise God for His grace to Gentiles and for Paul's faithfulness to his Gentile mission. Saints, Paul was one a great soldier for Jesus Christ!!! Be Blessed Saints!!

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Assembly Republicans Oust Flora, Elect Macedo as New Minority Leader

Austin Gage | California Black Media

On Aug. 3, California Assembly Republicans abruptly voted during a closed-door meeting to remove Minority Leader Heath Flora (R-Ripon).

The vote came as lawmakers returned to Sacramento following a monthlong summer recess.

Assemblymember Alexandra “Ali” Macedo (R-Tulare) was elected to replace Flora as leader of the Republican caucus in the lower house. Flora had faced growing dissatisfaction among some caucus members over his leadership.

Macedo was elected to the Assembly in November 2024 and took office Dec. 2, 2024.

She represents Assembly District 33, which includes portions of Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. She is seeking re-election in the Nov. 3 general election.

After being elected minority leader, Macedo told reporters at the Capitol, including California Black Media, that the Republican caucus would continue to “fight” for Californians despite Democratic supermajorities in both houses of the Legislature.

“We are a strong group even though we are in the minority,” Macedo said. “We continue to fight for all Californians who are paying the price for the Democrat uni-party rule that has made California so unaffordable.”

In February 2025,

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) removed Macedo from the Assembly Budget Committee, Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and Transportation, and the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. She was also removed as vice chair of the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee but appointed vice chair of the Assembly Elections Committee.

Some Republican lawmakers characterized the changes as retaliation against Macedo, an outspoken critic of state spending and policies advanced by the Democratic supermajority.

The 32-year-old first-term lawmaker has been described as a rising star in

the Republican Party.

“I am confident she will be a strong voice for Republican members and the Californians they represent,” California Republican Party Chairwoman Corrin Rankin said.

“We congratulate Republican Assembly Leader Macedo and look forward to working with her and the entire caucus to win elections this November and advance Republican proposals in the Legislature.

Macedo previously served as deputy Republican leader under Flora, placing her within the caucus leadership team before being selected to take its top post. Her elevation also comes less than two years after she first won election to the Legislature.

The leadership change also

brought a broader reshuffling of the Assembly Republican Caucus. Assemblymember David Tangipa (R-Fresno) was selected as minority whip, Josh Hoover (R-Folsom) as minority floor leader, Natasha Johnson (R-Lake Elsinore) as caucus chair and Joe Patterson (R-Rocklin) as deputy leader.

Republicans remain substantially outnumbered in the 80-member Assembly, meaning Macedo will lead a caucus with limited ability to block legislation on its own. Her role will include helping establish Republican legislative priorities while positioning members for debates over affordability, taxes, public safety and other issues heading into the November election.

Macedo’s district stretches

across portions of Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties in the Central Valley. Her current Assembly assignments include the Business and Professions, Governmental Organization, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Privacy and Consumer Protection, and Transportation committees.

The leadership transition gives Macedo a more prominent statewide platform as lawmakers enter the closing stretch of the 2025-26 legislative session and candidates turn their attention toward the Nov. 3 general election. For Assembly Republicans, the change also places a first-term Central Valley lawmaker at the forefront of the caucus as it seeks to expand its influence in Sacramento.

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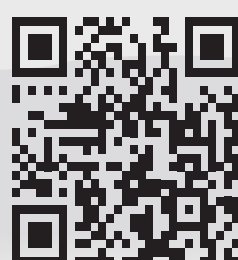
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