

13. Legislative Update.

Staff: Lindsey Nakano, Senior FPPC Legislative Counsel. The Commission will review and discuss potential sponsored and other legislation. The Commission may provide direction to staff regarding the same.

Legislative Update

Comment Letter – Marissa Roy, California Women’s List

Comment Letter – Danielle Cendejas, The Strategy Group

Comment Letter – Tiffany Boyd Hodgson, PhD, President, Vallecitos Water District Board of Directors

2. **Lauren Babb** says:

March 21, 2024 at 11:11 am

As a fervent advocate for public policy and women in politics, I urge your support for SB 1170, a vital bill addressing the mental health of political candidates. Particularly, women and BIPOC candidates face damaging personal attacks that can deeply affect their well-being. SB 1170 offers essential resources to support candidates navigating these challenges. As a board member of California Women’s List, California Women Lead, and Black Women for Wellness Action Project, I’ve seen firsthand the toll on candidates. Let’s ensure our leaders reflect the resilience of our communities.

1. **Sarah Carson, PhD** says:

March 21, 2024 at 10:10 am

As research consultant for CA Women’s List’s Her Stories on the Campaign Trail project, I surveyed 103 recent candidates for public office to study how hostility faced while running impacts mental health. Findings underscore a causal connection between campaign hostility and mental health symptoms. Our report recommends allowing campaign funds to be used for candidates’ mental healthcare, as SB 1170 narrowly proposes.

Our survey measured 13 types of hostility and 15 mental health symptoms. More than 80% of candidates reported experiencing online abuse and over 50% experienced in-person harassment, with women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ candidates at higher rates. ~80% of candidates reported new or worsened mental health symptoms directly attributable to hostility faced during their campaign. SB 1170 offers a data-driven solution to this issue, providing non-incumbent candidates with resources needed to navigate mental health challenges caused by campaign hostility.