



RAC-CA in 2018

2018 was a very successful year for the California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA). Eight bills we worked on became law and will make a difference on gun violence, housing and homelessness, health care, criminal justice reform, and climate change. Particularly notable is the passage of SB-100 the 100% Clean Energy Act which mandates all electricity in California be clean, carbon free and renewable by 2045. Please see the other side of this page for the outcomes of all the bills that RAC-CA endorsed in 2018.

We have had more congregations and Reform Jews participate in RAC-CA actions and campaigns than ever before. More than 200 Rabbis, Cantors, lay leaders and teens came to RAC-CA lobby day this year, a new record. We had a powerful meeting with Assembly Speaker Rendon and have continued to work with his office in the months following lobby day.

Dozens of congregations and thousands of Reform Jews participated in 100% voting campaigns and the successful effort to pass Proposition 1, the \$4 Billion Affordable Housing Bond ballot measure.

RAC-CA continued this year to consolidate organizational changes begun last year: becoming multi-issue, investing in and convening the leaders of congregational teams, and providing more opportunities for lay leaders, Rabbis, and Cantors to lead RAC-CA. We offered more online opportunities for congregational social justice leaders to come together to receive training and weigh in on the direction of RAC-CA.

We will continue to build on 2018's successes and lessons as we move toward increased scope and success in 2019.



The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington, D.C. The Center is led by the Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism (and its affiliates) and is supported by the congregations of the Union.



The Fate of RAC-CA Endorsed Bills 2018

Passed into Law	
SB 1437 BESTT Practices Act (Skinner)	California's murder statutes to reserve the most serious murder charges for those who actually plan or participate in a homicide
SB 1391 Trying Youth As Adults (Lara/Mitchell)	prohibits children age 14 and 15 from being tried as adults in criminal court and being sentenced to time in adult prison
SB 1421 Access to police misconduct and use of force records (Skinner)	provides transparency by releasing records of police misconduct, including cases of excessive use of force, sexual assault, and dishonesty in criminal investigations
SB 100 The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2017	requires all electricity produced in CA to come from zero-carbon resources by 2045 and also strengthens the state's primary renewable energy program
AB 2499 Medical Loss Ratios (Arambula)	requires health insurance companies to spend a higher percentage of premium dollars on health care
SB 1100 Age Restrictions on Gun Purchases (Portantino)	expands to rifles and shotguns California's existing prohibition on purchase of handguns by anyone under 21 years of age
SB 918 Homeless Youth Act (Weiner/Rubio)	establishes the Office of Homeless Youth, funded at \$60 million from the General Fund
AB 2162 Supportive Housing Streamlining (Chiu)	allows developers to build supportive housing "by right," i.e. without having to get a zoning variance
Vetoed By Governor Brown	
AB 2888 Gun Violence Restraining Orders (Ting)	allows co-workers and school personnel to petition courts for a temporary restraining order to prevent people who are an extreme risk of harm to self or others from owning or acquiring a gun
Did Not Pass Legislature	
SB 974 (Lara) and AB 2965 (Arambula) The Health4All Acts	remove eligibility barriers for low-income undocumented adults of age 65 and older (SB 974), and under age 26 (AB 2965), to participate fully in Medi-Cal, the CA version of Medicaid. We knew going into this year that extending health care coverage to adult immigrants in CA would likely be a multi-year campaign.
AB 2430 Medi-Cal Program for Aged and Disabled Persons (Arambula)	corrects an unfair anomaly whereby the Medi-Cal income limit for disabled people and people over 65 is <u>lower</u> than the income eligibility limit for all others
SB 1010 Parolees: Supportive Housing Pilot program (Beall)	creates a pilot project to provide supportive housing to parolees who are either experiencing homelessness or were homeless when incarcerated and have no place to go upon discharge
It's Complicated	
SB-10 Money Bail Reform (Hertzberg)	eliminates money bail and sets up preventative detention in its place. The bill passed the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Brown, but in a form RAC-CA opposed. See www.rac.org/CASB10Change for more info.