

ELECTION DAY MEANS SLOW WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

Not much went on at the Capitol this week due to Tuesday's (March 5) primary election. In addition to the well-publicized races for Governor, other constitutional officers, and six ballot propositions, all 80 Assembly seats and 20 of the 40 Senate seats were also on the ballot. According to a [story](#) in the *Sacramento Bee*, Tuesday's turnout was only 31.1%, the lowest in California history. All statewide and legislative election results can be found at the Secretary of State's [election results web page](#).

OVER 5, 100 BILLS!

Last week's *Sacramento Scene* said that as of February 28 there were over 2,217 pieces of legislation introduced for the 2001-02 legislative session. Our eyes must have been tired from reading so many bills, because the number should have read over 5,000 pieces of legislation had been introduced! (The 2,217 figure refers to the bills introduced in 2002).

The past week saw the introduction of more than 50 additional bills, bringing the two-year session total to more than 5,100. Most of the bills introduced were committee bills – i.e., bills which at least a majority of the members of a particular committee have agreed to jointly author. – which under the Legislature's rules are not subject to the bill introduction deadline that passed last February 22. Depending upon the rules and/or practice of the individual legislative committees, committee bills can be either non-controversial bipartisan measures or more controversial measures authored only by the committee members from the majority party.

Most of the new bills introduced this year will not be heard in a policy committee until early- to mid-April. This is part because bills (other than the budget bill, urgency measures, and bills introduced in an extraordinary session) must be in print for at least 30 days before they can be heard, and in part because the Legislature's annual Spring Recess will take place very early this year, between Friday, March 22 and Monday, April 1.

STATE BAR BOARD CANDIDATES CONFIRMED

The State Senate Monday (March 4) confirmed Governor Davis's appointment of [Janet Green and John Snetsinger](#) as public members of the State Bar's Board of Governors on a unanimous vote of 33-0. Only a very few committee hearings are scheduled for the upcoming week.

HEARINGS UPCOMING

The Senate Judiciary Committee will meet Tuesday, March 12, to consider a handful of bills. The Assembly Judiciary Committee, whose new Chair, Assm. [Ellen Corbett](#) (D-Hayward), takes over Monday, March 11, is not scheduled to meet.

SPOT BILLS

The term "spot bill" is often used in and around the Capitol. In brief, a spot bill is a bill that makes an innocuous and/or non-substantive change to a code section. Spot bills are introduced to assure that a germane vehicle will be available at a later date in case the author (legislator) or sponsoring organization (sponsor) needs a bill for a particular issue, or time is needed to develop substantive amendments to put into the bill after the bill introduction deadline.