

### “SACRAMENTO SCENE” RETURNS

The “Sacramento Scene” is returning after a four-week – and wholly unanticipated – hiatus, the result of a server crash that wiped out the State Bar electronic mailing lists. Now that new, updated lists are in operation, the “Scene” is back.

### CAPITOL NEARLY DESERTED AS ELECTION LOOMS

With the Tuesday, November 5, election looming, the halls of the state Capitol are nearly deserted these days. Members of the Legislature are busily engaged either seeking re-election (or election to a different) office themselves, or helping their colleagues get (re-)elected. Likewise, substantial numbers of legislative staff have taken vacation time to walk precincts and engage in other campaign-related activities on behalf of those lawmakers of their political party facing particularly stiff electoral challenges.

(Note: Election information, including live election night returns, can be found on the [Secretary of State’s website](#). Additional information can be found on the site maintained by the nonprofit, nonpartisan [California Voter Foundation](#).)

### A NOVEMBER SESSION? HIGHLY UNLIKELY, BUT ...

Although Tuesday’s election will determine the members of the 2003-04 Legislature, the current (2001-02 Legislature) is officially still in the saddle until it adjourns *sine die* on November 30, and is empowered to pass legislation in the regular session up to November 15 (it can’t pass bills later because of the Constitutional requirement that the Governor be given 12 days to sign or veto the bill, and the Legislature 3 days after that in which to override a veto).

While the event is *extremely* unlikely, there is a whispered rumor that the Legislature will return

briefly after the election to consider majority-vote legislation along the lines of [AB 1105 \(Oropeza\)](#). The proposal would authorize the Director of Finance to make a finding that insufficient monies are available to keep the vehicle license fee at the reduced rate established in 1999, thereby keeping roughly \$3.6 billion in the state coffers.

### 2003-04 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The new legislative session will convene on Monday, December 2, 2002. Members will be given the oath of office and officers elected. New members of the Assembly – of which there will be at least 31 (39% of the 80-member house) will then begin a week-long orientation. No similar orientation will take place in the Senate, since at least six of the seven new Senators are almost certain to be current or former members of the Assembly (compared to one former Senator – [Ray Haynes](#) of Riverside – returning to the Assembly). Only one Senate seat (the [12<sup>th</sup> S.D.](#), ranging from Monterey to Merced) has the possibility of going to a Capitol newcomer.

The Legislature will then recess for the remainder of December, returning Monday, January 6, to get down to business. See the “[Legislative Calendar](#)” taken from the Assembly Recess File.

December will be a busy month for legislative leadership in both houses, however, as they set about configuring the many committees of the Legislature. Some of the committees will change significantly. The seven-member [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) will have at least three new members, with the departure via limits of Democrats [Steve Peace](#) and [Jack O’Connell](#) and Republican [Ray Haynes](#) (moving to the Assembly). In the other house, term limits will claim only three of the 10-member [Assembly Judiciary Committee](#) (Democrats [Kevin Shelley](#) and [Howard Wayne](#) and Republican [Rod Pacheco](#)), but the greater volatility of committee membership in the lower house suggests that more changes than this will occur.