



OUTCOMES REVIEW

THE INAUGURAL REPORT

A First-in-the-Nation
Oversight Program in
the California State Assembly







November 2026



THE INAUGURAL REPORT

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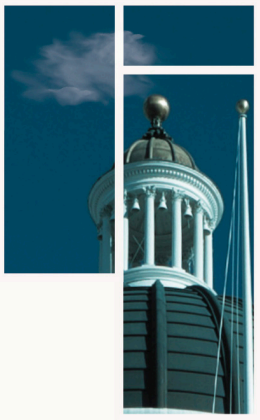
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A NOTE FROM SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY ROBERT RIVAS



When I became Speaker, I made a commitment: The Assembly would be measured not by how many bills we pass, but by whether our work makes life better for the people we serve.

Outcomes Review is that commitment put into practice.



A Commitment to Oversight

Too often in legislatures, the work stops when a bill is signed. The ceremony ends, the press release goes out, and the hardest questions sometimes go unanswered. Is the law reaching the people it was meant to help? Is it working as intended? What needs to be fixed?

This year, 15 Assemblymembers and 10 Assembly committees set out to answer those questions. They reviewed laws related to housing, telehealth, wildfire recovery, foster care, clean energy, water and protections for consumers and workers. Members held oversight hearings, went into communities and listened to the people who live with these laws every day.

And they were honest about what they found. Some laws are working well. Others required follow-up and new solutions. Several reviews led to new legislation, and are now laws designed to make meaningful improvements.

That honesty is the point: Public trust isn't earned through good intentions. It's earned by showing up and following through.

I'm proud of the members of this inaugural cohort, who took on that responsibility with seriousness and focus. Our policy committees demonstrated their unmatched expertise and incredible substance. And their work lays the foundation for something lasting: In 2027, Outcomes Review will grow, with more members, more laws and more Californians at the table.

> **Passing a law is a beginning, not an end. Thank you for holding us to that standard.**

A lifecycle

HOW OUTCOMES REVIEW WORKS



Assemblymembers - REQUEST

- Identify a law for review
- Consult with Office of Policy and Research and/or appropriate Policy Committee, as needed
- Accumulate relevant information, including background, stakeholders, etc.
- Complete official request form



Assembly Speaker's Office and Committees - ASSESS AND SELECT

- Review proposed OR for eligibility, completeness, timing & fit
- Work with Member offices to clarify or strengthen requests
- Determine committee capacity to execute reviews
- Finalize, announce and prepare for cohort and reviews



Policy Committees + Assemblymembers - CONDUCT REVIEWS

- Coordinate to plan oversight hearings and/or roundtables
- Engage agencies, stakeholders, and impacted communities
- Conduct oversight events (e.g., town halls) with complementary communication
- Gather information and assess implementation



All Involved Parties - REPORT OUTPUTS, CONTINUE OVERSIGHT

- Develop findings, highlighting successes of implementation and opportunities for improvement
- Complete output reporting
- Prepare and coordinate announcements of next steps, if applicable
- Highlight community impact and results

The Inaugural Outcomes Review
ASSEMBLY COHORT



CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY
Expanding Telehealth Access for Families



JOAQUIN ARAMBULA
Streamlining Groundwater Recharge to Strengthen Water Supply



REBECCA BAUER-KAHAN
Strengthening California's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



LISA CALDERON
Improving Homeowners' Access to Insurance



SADE ELHAWARY
Combating Wage Theft and Holding Bad Actors Accountable



MIKE GIPSON
Reducing Disruptive Foster Care Placements



JOHN HARABEDIAN
Protecting L.A. Wildfire Survivors from Post-Disaster Foreclosure



JACQUI IRWIN
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GAIL PELLERIN
Stabilizing Foster Family Agencies



PILAR SCHIAVO
Reducing Costs and Delays in Affordable Housing Finance



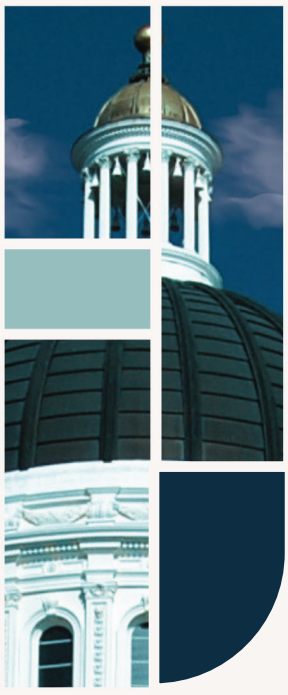
ESMERALDA SORIA
Supporting Affordable Farmworker Housing in the Central Valley



CHRIS WARD
Expanding Community Access to Clean Energy



BUFFY WICKS
Accelerating Affordable Housing



A FIRST-IN-THE-NATION IDEA

Public policy exists to solve real problems. Yet too often, policymaking ends when the bill is signed into law. That leaves some of the most important questions unanswered, including: Is the law being implemented effectively, and is it making a meaningful difference in people's lives?

When the Legislature enacts a new law, Californians deserve to know whether it is delivering on its promise. Is it reaching the people it was designed to serve? Is it working as intended? And where can it improve?

Speaker Robert Rivas set out to make answering those questions a regular, essential part of the legislative process. To him, passing a law is an important step, and making sure it works is just as important.

These are fundamental questions of good governance. Answering them, though, requires something government has seldom made a priority: a deliberate, ongoing commitment to reviewing the real-world impact of its own work.

Accountability means tracking each stage of implementation, evaluating the results honestly, and being willing to make changes when those results fall short. The Speaker believes that is a core responsibility of the Legislature.

That conviction gave rise to Outcomes Review, the first program of its kind in the nation. This report marks the completion of its inaugural year, in which 15 Assemblymembers reviewed 14 laws to measure impact and determine whether further action is needed.

The program will continue and grow in 2027 and beyond, becoming a permanent part of how the Assembly serves Californians.

STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Since the start of his Speakership, Speaker Rivas has held to a simple principle: California's government must be accountable for results.

That means looking beyond the number of new laws passed to consider the quality of the solutions enacted, how effectively they are implemented, and whether they deliver on their promises to Californians.

This principle has guided a broader effort to strengthen oversight across the Assembly. Under Speaker Rivas, the Assembly has scrutinized state spending closely and prioritized legislation that addresses the everyday concerns of working Californians.







> **The Assembly has held numerous targeted oversight and select committee hearings, including creating new select committees on issues that matter most to voters.**

These hearings brought policymakers, agency leaders, experts, and community stakeholders together to examine how programs are performing and where they need to improve. The result has been a stronger push for transparency and measurable outcomes across state government.







Oversight is also central to the Assembly's annual budget process. Each year, Assembly budget committees hold dozens of public hearings examining how state departments spend taxpayer dollars and whether those investments deliver measurable results. More than 30% of budget hearings involve oversight of state agencies and programs. Leading this work is Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 7 on Accountability and Oversight, which Speaker Rivas created to scrutinize major state investments and ensure public funds are used effectively.

The Speaker has also made room for more oversight work. In 2025, he reduced the number of bills each member may introduce each two-year session from 50 to 35. The result was the fewest bill introductions in two decades: 608 fewer than the previous session, a drop of nearly 13%. That shift gives lawmakers the capacity to make sure existing laws and programs work as intended.

Outcomes Review builds on this foundation, bringing the same commitment to accountability directly to the laws the Legislature passes. Announced in November 2025, the program established a formal process for Assemblymembers to revisit enacted laws. Members examine how each works in practice, hear from the people it affects, and identify ways to strengthen its impact.

> **The standard is simple: passing a law is the beginning of a commitment, not the end of one.**

CHANGING HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS

The inaugural 2026 program put this vision into practice. Assemblymembers reviewed laws on issues affecting communities throughout California through public hearings, community meetings and collaboration with experts, advocates, local leaders and other stakeholders. Together, they began assessing real-world outcomes and identifying concrete improvements.

Outcomes Review treats legislation as a work in progress rather than a finished product. It asks what is working, what isn't, and what can be done better. It gives lawmakers a framework to learn from implementation, identify gaps between policy and practice, and pursue solutions grounded in evidence.

Just as important, it recognizes that effective oversight requires listening. Californians, local leaders, service providers, advocates and policy experts can offer critical insight into how laws affect communities beyond the Capitol.

As seen in the chart on page 6, each Outcomes Review brings together individual Assemblymembers, the Assembly Office of Policy and Research, policy committees and the Assembly Speaker's office into a new legislative workflow that leverages existing oversight mechanisms but offers a fresh narrative and focus on results for constituents, advocates, and press to engage on.

Changing How Government Works

Each proposal for an Outcomes Review is scrutinized to ensure it maximizes the Assembly's impact. Typically, we consider an Outcomes Review germane after a law has been in effect for at least two years, so implementation is underway and data has ideally been collected. Assemblymembers are encouraged to review laws they previously authored, but exceptions are granted, particularly when a law's author no longer serves in the Legislature.

The Outcomes Review process aims to fit into the legislative calendar. Hearings and roundtables occur throughout the year, but are often timed for months when committees are not reviewing and hearing large volumes of policy bills.

Findings and outputs are announced throughout the year, so that successes can be highlighted and opportunities for improvement or follow-on legislation can be explored.







> **This is what accountability looks like in practice: asking difficult questions, examining the evidence and taking responsibility for the results.**

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT OUTCOMES REVIEW:



Thank you to Speaker Rivas for establishing the Outcomes Review process. It's helping us better understand how our laws are applied in real life.

By hearing directly from providers and stakeholders during our review of AB 744 and AB 32, we now know how California's telehealth policies are working and how they need to be refined. The Outcomes Review process has made that possible. Telehealth has made a real difference in helping Californians get care. We need to keep building on that progress and make sure these policies work for the people who rely on them.

Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters)

Passing a bill is only the first step in trying to solve a problem. Ensuring the correct implementation of that legislation is an equally important step in that process.

Speaker Rivas's Outcomes Review program helps scale up this important practice to the entire Legislature so that all my colleagues can see the need and value in tracking the implementation of their passed legislation.

Assemblymember and Congresswoman-elect Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks)



Comments in the Media

"The hearings would allow lawmakers to dive deeper into certain laws and create a new culture here that emphasizes accountability."

CALMATTERS

"The Outcomes Review project has been in development since the early days of his speakership and is designed to shift the Legislature's focus beyond passing bills to evaluating their real-world impact."

abc10

"A new Assembly oversight program has identified gaps in laws addressing wildfire recovery, insurance, foster care and clean energy."

CBM | CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

"**Kudos to Speaker Rivas for this bold experiment. I look forward to seeing what happens as the California Assembly tests the program, documents what happens, and learns what's hard and what works.**"

Jennifer Pahlka, Eating Policy

Scan to read full article

2026 Cohort:

FINDINGS AND OUTCOMES



Expanding Telehealth Access for Families

Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (AD 4)

Overview

Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry continued her work on health care access for California families by reviewing implementation of AB 744 (2019) and AB 32 (2021), which expanded telehealth services to improve access to care statewide.

What We Learned

An August 4 hearing in the Assembly Health Committee demonstrated that expanding telehealth has largely succeeded in improving access to care and adding flexibility for patients. Providers and stakeholders identified areas where more work is needed, including expanding access to broadband and asynchronous care.

What Comes Next

Majority Leader Aguiar-Curry and other legislators intend to use lessons learned in the Outcomes Review process to strengthen California's telehealth policies moving forward.



LEARN MORE

Scan to access the Assembly Health Committee's full hearing materials from August 4, 2026.

Strengthening California's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (AD 16)

Overview

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan reviewed implementation of AB 988 (2022), which established the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in California, to assess statewide implementation, staffing and funding capacity, and coordination with 911 to ensure Californians experiencing a mental health crisis receive timely and appropriate care.

What We Learned

The Outcomes Review brought together information on 988 implementation that had previously been spread across agencies and jurisdictions, giving legislators a clearer picture of where implementation is falling short and allowing frontline stakeholders to raise concerns directly with state agencies.

What Comes Next

Issues raised during the review will help inform proposals to strengthen statewide oversight of the 988 system, improve coordination between 988 and 911, and establish clearer standards for crisis response and mobile crisis services.

LEARN MORE

Scan to access full hearing materials from the Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Select Committee on Native American Affairs from May 12, 2026

Improving Homeowners' Access to Insurance

Assemblymember Lisa Calderon (AD 56)

Overview

Assemblymember Lisa Calderon reviewed implementation of AB 3012 (2020), which created the Residential FAIR Plan Clearinghouse Program as a tool to move homeowners from the FAIR Plan back into the traditional insurance market.

What We Learned

The Outcomes Review found that the FAIR Plan clearinghouse program was not working as the Legislature intended and was not effectively helping policyholders transition back to the traditional insurance market. The review identified gaps in transparency, consumer awareness and participation that warranted further legislative action.

What Comes Next

Following the Outcomes Review process, Assemblymember Calderon amended AB 69 to address concerns identified by improving transparency, strengthening reporting requirements and making it easier for FAIR Plan policyholders to learn about and access coverage options in the traditional market. AB 69 was signed into law by Governor Newsom.

LEARN MORE

Scan to access the Assembly Insurance Committee's full hearing materials from March 18, 2026



Reducing Disruptive Foster Care Placements

Assemblymember Mike Gipson (AD 65)

Overview

Assemblymember Mike Gipson reviewed implementation of AB 2247 (2018), which strengthened protections for foster youth by requiring placement preservation strategies and advance notice before placement changes, to assess whether the law is improving placement stability and reducing disruptive moves for children in foster care.

What We Learned

Youth and advocates reported inconsistent implementation across the state, including meetings occurring without youth present or without proper facilitation. The review also identified circumstances where the process can delay family placements or reunification.

What Comes Next

The Department of Social Services is expected to strengthen the Child and Family Team process as part of the new foster care rate structure. The review also identified potential improvements, including more consistent professional facilitation, stronger representation for youth and expedited timelines where delays could hinder reunification.



LEARN MORE

Scan to access the Assembly Human Services Committee's full hearing materials from June 30, 2026

Protecting L.A. Wildfire Survivors from Post-Disaster Foreclosure

Assemblymember John Harabedian (AD 41)

Overview

Assemblymember John Harabedian reviewed outcomes related to AB 238 (2025), an urgency measure enacted after the Eaton and Palisades Fires to provide up to 12 months of emergency mortgage forbearance for qualified borrowers, to assess compliance and identify opportunities to strengthen relief for disaster survivors.

What We Learned

A roundtable in Assemblymember Harabedian's district centered on survivors of the Eaton Fire and identified significant gaps in implementation and enforcement, including lender noncompliance, limited consumer complaint data and a need for clearer standards and stronger coordination between state and federal partners.

What Comes Next

Lessons from the review informed AB 1842, which would establish a permanent statewide emergency mortgage forbearance framework, and AB 1847, which would extend relief for survivors of the Eaton and Palisades Fires as rebuilding continues. AB 1842 and AB 1847 were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom, who touted them as **landmark legislation** that will provide families **a path away from foreclosure**.

LEARN MORE

Scan to access the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee's full roundtable hearing materials from March 20, 2026



Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in Charitable Giving

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (AD 42)

Overview

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin reviewed implementation of AB 488 (2021), which strengthened oversight of online charitable fundraising to ensure donations raised on platforms get to charitable organizations, especially when generosity soars in response to emergencies like wildfires.

What We Learned

Many stakeholders that support the intent of AB 488 have process-based frustrations with how the law has been implemented and worry that there are not adequate safeguards when a charity is removed from "good standing" status.

What Comes Next

Assemblymember Irwin introduced AB 2221, which makes a number of improvements based on the Outcomes Review findings. AB 2221 passed the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Newsom.

LEARN MORE

Scan to access the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee's full hearing materials from February 17, 2026



Combating Wage Theft and Holding Bad Actors Accountable

Assemblymember Liz Ortega (AD 20)

Assemblymember Sade Elhawary (AD 57)

Overview

Assemblymember Liz Ortega, co-leading with Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, reviewed outcomes related to SB 588 (2015), which expanded enforcement tools to combat wage theft and hold employers accountable for unpaid wages.

What We Learned

The Outcomes Review hearing focused on the Labor Commissioner's ability to collect unpaid wages on older and challenging claims. The hearing found that some tools to enforce judgments are effective, but liens may be available too late to be effective.

What Comes Next

Legislators have expressed strong interest in pursuing new legislation that can build on the tools provided in SB 588.

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Scan to access the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee's full hearing materials from February 17, 2026

Streamlining Groundwater Recharge to Strengthen Water Supply

Assemblymember Diane Papan (AD 21)
Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (AD 31)

Overview

Assemblymember Diane Papan, along with Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, reviewed implementation of AB 658 (2019), which created five-year temporary water-right permits intended to help expand groundwater recharge. The review examined whether the law was helping California scale recharge projects and overcome permitting challenges.

What We Learned

Water agencies generally reported that AB 658 has been helpful, with nine five-year temporary permits issued by the time of the hearing. Stakeholders also identified remaining challenges, particularly the need to streamline permitting and better define when water can safely be captured for recharge.

What Comes Next

The review is informing ongoing efforts led by Asm. Papan and other water policymakers to address the costs of obtaining permits for groundwater recharge and better understand when water can be safely captured for recharge without injuring other water rights holders.

LEARN MORE

Scan to access the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee's full hearing materials from March 10, 2026



Stabilizing Foster Family Agencies

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin (AD 28)

Overview

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin reviewed the implementation of AB 2496 (2024), which was enacted to address liability and insurance challenges facing foster family agencies. The review assessed whether the law is providing stability to providers and ensuring continuity of care for children in the foster care system.

What We Learned

The Outcomes Review found that foster family agencies continue to face severe insurance challenges. State funding has helped prevent additional closures, but providers still face limited and significantly more expensive coverage options, with many agencies reporting layoffs and concerns about their ability to remain open.

What Comes Next

Assemblymember Pellerin and stakeholders are seeking greater engagement from the Departments of Social Services and Insurance. She authored AB 2333 to extend existing indemnification provisions through January 1, 2028 and help stabilize the market. This bill was signed into law on July 16, 2026.



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Scan to access the Assembly Human Services Committee's full hearing materials from June 30, 2026



Reducing Costs and Delays in Affordable Housing Finance

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo (AD 40)

Overview

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo reviewed implementation of AB 519 (2023), which created a multi-agency workgroup to streamline and coordinate affordable housing finance by moving multiple state funding programs into a single, consolidated application.

What We Learned

Stakeholders generally agreed that AB 519's streamlining provisions have strengthened inter-agency communication, will reduce duplicative paperwork, and ultimately will reduce development costs and delays.

What Comes Next

Assemblymember Schiavo will remain engaged with stakeholders, including state agencies and affordable housing developers, as they pursue the 2027 goal of a streamlined application process that lowers the cost of developing affordable housing.



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Scan to access the Assembly Housing Committee's full hearing materials from August 11, 2026



Supporting Affordable Farmworker Housing in the Central Valley

Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria (AD 27)

Overview

Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria reviewed outcomes related to AB 457 (2025), which was enacted to support the development of affordable farmworker housing within close proximity to agricultural land in the Central Valley.

What We Learned

AB 457 is a relatively new law, and fully assessing its impact will take additional time. However, the hearing revealed that streamlining affordable housing in rural areas can be effective but often takes local governments significant time to implement.

What Comes Next

Policymakers will weigh whether the streamlining program in AB 457 should be refined and/or expanded to additional coastal counties with agricultural areas.

LEARN MORE

The Assembly Housing Committee's full hearing materials from March 11, 2026

Expanding Community Access to Clean Energy

Assemblymember Chris Ward (AD 78)

Overview

Assemblymember Chris Ward reviewed AB 2316 (2022), which empowered the California Public Utilities Commission to create a community solar program.

What We Learned

Assemblymember Ward and stakeholders believe that the Community Renewable Energy Program, which was created by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to implement AB 2316, does not fulfill the law's intent and has not led to the creation of new community solar projects.

What Comes Next

Assemblymember Ward introduced AB 1813 to take the information learned in the Outcomes Review process and require the CPUC to amend its program to meet the original intent of AB 2316. AB 1813 passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Newsom.

LEARN MORE

Scan to access the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee's full hearing materials from February 25, 2026

Accelerating Affordable Housing

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (AD 14)

Overview

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks reviewed implementation of AB 2011, the Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022, enacted to streamline the approval of affordable and mixed-income housing along resource-rich commercial corridors.

What We Learned

Analysis by UC Berkeley and other testimony indicates that AB 2011 has been effective for 100% affordable housing projects, but could be further refined, particularly to facilitate more mixed-income projects.

What Comes Next

Assemblymember Wicks plans to meet with stakeholders to explore possible clean-up legislation during the 2027-28 session.

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Scan to access the Assembly Housing Committee's full hearing materials from February 25, 2026



Next Steps

BUILDING A LASTING COMMITMENT TO OVERSIGHT

The Assembly will continue the Outcomes Review program in 2027, with expanded oversight, a larger group of participating members and more public hearings and meetings expected to take place next session.

The Outcomes Review program is now being administered by the Assembly Office of Policy and Research (P&R), which is overseen by the Assistant Majority Leader for Policy and Research. P&R brings deep policy expertise to this work, and will work with Speaker Rivas' office, Member offices, and policy committees to ensure that Outcomes Reviews are timely, well-resourced, and institutionalized within the Assembly as part of the body's continued emphasis on oversight.

The first hearing of the 2027 cohort has already taken place. Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan led a review of SB 53 (Wiener) of 2025, a landmark law governing transparency of frontier artificial intelligence models.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

about Speaker Robert Rivas' commitment to oversight and accountability