

California Governor Signs State Budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CN) – Promising to increase California’s rainy-day fund along with major boosts to transportation infrastructure spending, Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday signed a \$183-billion spending plan.

Brown approved the Golden State’s largest-ever spending plan without making any vetoes to the budget bill sent to him by lawmakers on [June 16](#). The bill accelerates nearly \$3 billion in infrastructure spending, stashes \$1.8 billion to the state’s burgeoning rainy day fund and increases education spending over last year’s budget by \$3.1 billion. The fourth-term Democratic governor says the spending plan is aimed at preparing California for future recession through “fiscal prudence.”

“California is taking decisive action by enacting a balanced state budget,” said Brown in a statement. “This budget provides money to repair our roads and bridges, pay down debt, invest in schools, fund the earned income tax credit and provide Medi-Cal health care for millions of Californians.”

The signing comes 11 days after Brown and the Legislature agreed to the bill, which includes \$125 billion in general fund expenditures, an increase of nearly \$4 billion over the current budget. It expands the state’s Earned Income Tax Credit by making an estimated 1.5 million low-income households eligible for the state-subsidized employment credit.

For the first time in six years, tuition rates will rise at both the University of California and California State University systems. The budget reflects a total of \$15.3 billion in higher education spending, including special and bond funds.

[The budget](#) also dedicates \$711 million to Medi-Cal from revenues generated by the state’s voter-approved tax hike on tobacco products. The Medi-Cal boosts come after state Republicans argued during the budget process that the state’s majority party was attempting to violate Proposition 56 by diverting money from the tobacco tax away from health care.

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Full Article Here: <http://www.courthousenews.com/calif-governor-signs-budget/>

Daily Journal

Judge in Stanford swimmer sexual assault case faces recall campaign

A group of activists filed paperwork Monday to officially launch a recall election against a Santa Clara County judge who was criticized for his decision to sentence a former Stanford University swimmer to six months in jail for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman. Fifty activists, who are being led by Stanford law professor Michele Dauber, turned in a “notice of intent” with the Santa Clara County registrar of voters, setting into motion a complex series of steps to remove Judge Aaron Persky from the bench in the next election cycle. “Santa Clara County residents deserve a judge who will protect victims, not rapists,” Dauber said at a news conference Monday. Brock Turner was sentenced to six months in jail for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman. (Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office) In March 2016, Brock Turner, a three-time All-American high school swimmer, was found guilty of sexually assaulting “Emily Doe” behind a dumpster after a fraternity party. The college athlete was facing a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison for the January 2015 assault. Prosecutors asked Persky to sentence him to six years in prison. Before making a decision, Dauber and more than 250 students submitted letters to Persky, pleading that Turner be held accountable for his actions.

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Full Article Here: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-judge-persky-recall-election-effort-20170626-htmlstory.html>

Daily Journal

Recall campaign of Santa Clara County judge starts

By James Getz

Critics seeking to recall Judge Aaron Persky for what they claim is a consistent bias in favor of privileged defendants in sex crimes cases — illustrated by his sentencing of sex offender Brock Turner — have a formidable gauntlet to gather 58,643 valid signatures to put the recall issue on the June 2018 ballot.

But the woman spearheading the effort, Stanford Law School Professor Michele Dauber, said she is confident.

"It's daunting — 58,000 is a high number — but what I know from working on this campaign for the past year is there are a lot of voters in this county who are highly educated about this judge," she said. "They want to go to the polls and vote against him."

Persky became a national lightning rod in June 2016 after he sentenced Turner to six months in jail for sexually assaulting an intoxicated, unconscious woman in Palo Alto the previous year. Turner was released in September after serving three months.

The gauntlet for The Committee to Recall Judge Persky is not just in the number of signatures: it's in the deadlines and requirements under the state's Election Code.

The first deadline actually belongs to Persky. He has until Monday to give an answer to the recall Notice of Intention that Dauber and 49 other county residents filed Monday with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

Assuming it is no more than 200 words and otherwise passes muster, Registrar Shannon Bushey said, "The answer is required to be on the petition, and if it makes it onto the ballot, the answer would be in the voter information guide."

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