

# Power (to the People) Lunch

SHEET 1

Action Sheet for August 15, 2019

(Suggestions Prepared by Elizabeth Conner)

## Action 1: Thank leaders who've stood up for democracy

### A. Thank Mike McGuire for authoring 'tax returns bill' and Governor Newsom for signing it.

From LA Times, "President Trump will be ineligible for California's primary ballot next year unless he discloses his tax returns under a state law that took effect immediately Tuesday, an unprecedented mandate that is almost certain to spark a high-profile court fight and might encourage other states to adopt their own unconventional rules for presidential candidates. ...Newsom's signing announcement on Tuesday included statements of support from prominent legal scholars. McGuire said legislators consulted a number of constitutional law attorneys in drafting SB 27. He said it should be viewed the same way as other state requirements such as filing fees or voter signatures needed on nomination papers. "Releasing your tax returns is really a low bar to hit," McGuire said Tuesday. "The bottom line is that transparency is the foundation of accountability in government. This is bigger than any one president."

Let's thank our Senator McGuire for authoring this bill, and Governor Newsom for signing and defending it.

#### California Senator Mike McGuire (D):

**Call:** Eureka: (707) 445-6508; Santa Rosa: (707) 576-2771; Sacramento: (916) 651-4002

**Write: Capitol Office:** 1303 10th Street, Room 5061; Sacramento, CA 95814

**Send comment:** senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov

*Hi, I'm a constituent from [City, ZIP], and I'm calling to thank Senator McGuire for authoring SB 27 to require Presidential candidates to release their tax returns to qualify for the ballot in California. I appreciate his attention to this issue. Thank you for taking my message.*

#### Governor Gavin Newsom (D)

**Call:** (916) 445-2841

**Write:** 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814

**Send comment:** <https://govappa.gov.ca.gov/gov/gov40mail/>

*Hi, I'm a constituent from [City, ZIP], and I'm calling to thank Governor Newsom for signing SB 27 to require Presidential candidates to release their tax returns to qualify for the ballot in California. Thank you for taking my message.*

### B. Thank Nevada AG Aaron Ford for Proactively Informing People of Voting Rights

The Nevada Independent Reports, "Attorney General Aaron Ford is launching a public awareness campaign using videos, flyers, PSAs and "on-the-ground" outreach to inform an estimated 77,000 formerly incarcerated Nevadans that they will have their right to vote automatically restored under a bill passed by the 2019 Legislature. ..."Voting is an important part of reintegrating into our community and is a shared civic responsibility. By restoring ex-offenders' right to participate on a level footing with other citizens, we facilitate a sense of pride that makes them less likely to recidivate," Ford said in a statement

#### Write: Attorney General Aaron Ford, 100 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

**Email:** [ag.nv.gov/contact](mailto:ag.nv.gov/contact)

*Suggested script:*

*Dear AG Ford, Thank you for your efforts to proactively ensure that the 70,000 formerly incarcerated citizens in Nevada are aware of new voting rights restoration laws. It's important for people to have the right to vote and be involved in civic activities. Thank you, [name]*

## Action 2: Support California AB-127: Transportation Funding for Active Transportation and Complete Streets.

The Union of Concerned Scientists says: "In order to effectively address global warming, we must significantly reduce the amount of heat-trapping emissions we are putting into the atmosphere. The good news is that we have the technology and practical solutions at hand to accomplish it.

As individuals, we can help by taking action to reduce our personal carbon emissions. But **to fully address the threat of global warming, we must demand action from our elected leaders** to support and implement a comprehensive set of climate solutions." We can advocate for investing in efficient energy technologies and industries so we can transform our energy system to one that is cleaner and less dependent on fossil fuels, and other policies.

In PLH, we can educate ourselves about how to tackle the second part of this equation and focus on **speaking up for energy and transportation options that use renewable energy here in Northern California and state-wide.** One such bill is CA SB 127 Transportation Funding for Active Transportation and Complete Streets (Now in the Assembly, so title is AB 127).

From CA.Leg.info: "This bill would establish an Active Transportation Asset Branch within the Transportation Asset Management Office and require the asset management plan to prescribe a process for community input and complete streets implementation to prioritize safety and accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users on all State Highway Operation and Protection Program projects, as specified." All projects starting in 2022 must meet the new requirements. **This bill is a big deal in that it both codifies and funds active transportation infrastructure throughout California.**

Let's thank state Senator McGuire for voting for this; ask Rep.Wood to vote yes on AB 127; and contact two Assembly Members who voted against it in Committee and urge them to vote reconsider their vote.

### California Senator Mike McGuire (D):

**Call:** Eureka: (707) 445-6508; Santa Rosa: **(707) 576-2771**; Sacramento: **(916) 651-4002**

**Write:** Capitol Office: 1303 10th Street, Room 5061; Sacramento, CA 95814

**Email:** senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov

*Hi, I'm a constituent from [City, ZIP], and I'm calling to thank Senator McGuire for voting in favor of SB 127 to provide transportation department funding for active transportation and complete streets. Thank you for taking my message.*

### California Assembly Member Jim Wood (D):

**Call:** Humboldt/Del Norte/Trinity: **(707) 445-7014**; Sonoma: **(707) 576-2526**;

Sacramento: **(916) 319-2002** [when it goes to voicemail, press 9 to comment.]

**Write:** Capitol Office: State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002;

**Email:** go to: <https://a02.asmdc.org/> and hit the "Write to Jim" tab on upper right of page.

*Hi, I'm a constituent from [City, ZIP], and I'm calling to ask Rep. Wood to vote yes on AB 127 to provide transportation department funding for active transportation and complete streets. Can I count on Assembly Member Wood to vote yes on SB 127? Thank you for talking with me.*

### Assmby Member Vince Fong

**Call:** Capitol Office **(916) 319-2034**; Bakersfield Office: **(661) 395-2995**

**Write:** Capitol Office, **Room 2002**, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0034;

### Assembly Member Jordan Cunningham

**Call:** Capitol Office: **(916) 319-2035**; San Luis Obispo: **(805) 549-3381**

**Write:** Capital Office, Room 4102, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0035

*Suggested script for Assembly Members Fong and Cunningham*

*Hi, I'm calling to ask Assembly Member \_\_\_\_ to vote **yes on AB 127 to provide transportation department funding for active transportation and complete streets.** [This issue is important so families and children can be safe while being more active.] Thank you for taking my message.*

## SHEET 2

### Action 3.A: Ask CA Gov. Newsom to Put Moratorium on Oil Drilling & Fracking

**UPDATE:** Governor Newsom is feeling the pressure from all of us who are contacting him about this issue. He's released a statement about how it is legally challenging for him to implement a moratorium, yet other states with similar laws have done this. So, in short, let's keep up the pressure and keep calling /writing with this request. **If you already taken action on this one; please go to Action 3.B. on the reverse side.**

From LA Times, July 12, 2019: "Gov. Gavin Newsom's chief of staff fired Ken Harris, the head of the state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, on Thursday after revelations that, during the governor's first six months in office, the state approved fracking permits at twice the rate it did in the year before under former Gov. Jerry Brown. Newsom, who opposes fracking, said he was unaware that so many permits had been issued by the agency." Further, Harris and other staff are reported to have ties to the oil industry.

From Desert Sun, 7/10/19: "The **pace at which fracking permits are issued has doubled** since Newsom took office in January, and **thousands of permits for new and re-used oil and gas wells have also been approved.**" Let's **join other climate activists in California** (Sierra Club, 350.org and FracTracker Alliance) and call on Governor Newsom to immediately declare a six-month moratorium on oil drilling and fracking.

#### Contact Governor Gavin Newsom

**Call: (916) 445-2841**

**Write:** 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814

**Send comment:** <https://govappa.gov.ca.gov/gov/gov40mail/>

*Suggested phone script:*

*Hi, I'm a constituent from [City, ZIP], and I'm calling Governor Newsom because I'm concerned about the increase in oil drilling and fracking in California over the last six months. I understand this is a complex issue, but I don't want the oil drilling to continue while decisions are being made. **Please ask Governor Newsom to immediately place a six-month moratorium on all oil drilling and fracking in California.** Thank you for taking my message.*

*Suggested email or post card:*

*I'm concerned about the recent increase in oil drilling and fracking in California. Along with climate pollution, the impacts include health-threatening air and water pollution. This mostly affects low-income and other marginal communities where the fracking wells are often located. I know this is a complex issue, but I don't want the oil drilling to continue while decisions are being reviewed and made. Therefore, I am requesting that Governor Newsom immediately place a six-month moratorium on all oil drilling and fracking in California. Thank you. [Name, address w/ ZIP]*

#### California Senator Mike McGuire (D)

**Call:** Eureka: (707) 445-6508; San Rafael: **(415) 479-6612**; Santa Rosa: **(707) 576-2771**

Capitol Office: **(916) 651-4002** (ask for Danielle Bradley)

**Write: Capitol Office:** 1303 10th Street, Room 5061; Sacramento, CA 95814;

**Email:** [senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov)

#### California Assembly Member Jim Wood (D)

**Call:** Humboldt/Del Norte/Trinity: **(707) 445-7014**; Sonoma: **(707) 576-2526**;

Sacramento: **(916) 319-2002** [when it goes to voicemail, press 9 to comment.]

**Write: Capitol Office:** State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002;

Email: go to: <https://a02.asmdc.org/> and hit the "Write to Jim" tab on upper right of page.

*Suggested script for Senator McGuire and Rep. Wood:*

*Hi, I'm a constituent from [City, ZIP], and I'm calling because **I'm concerned about the increase in oil drilling and fracking in California** over the last six months. I've already contacted Governor Newsom to request that he place a six-month moratorium on all oil drilling and fracking in California. **Can I count on \_\_\_ to help in seeking a such a moratorium?** Thank you talking with me.*

## Action 3: B Ask CA Governor Newsom to End New Oil Drilling and Fracking and Support a 'Just Transition'

While California has taken steps to reduce consumption of fossil fuels, it remains one of the largest oil producers in the United States, and the producer of some of the world's most climate-polluting oil. The state currently has no plan to address oil and gas extraction, including fracking, or to protect the low-income communities and communities of color which suffer disproportionately from health and safety harms due to proximity to oil and gas wells and infrastructure. California plays a key role in the climate fight, and is often a catalyst for other states and countries to follow their lead. Governor Newsom has signaled support for a Just Transition off Fossil Fuels' but we need to continue to encourage him to act quickly. Our voices are needed to counter-balance the barrage from the oil and gas industries.

Last Chance Alliance, 350.org and others are preparing to support youth-led climate strikes across California in September, and are leading a campaign of nearly 600 groups that is calling on Governor Newsom to stop new fossil fuel projects, protect communities with a 2500-ft health and safety buffer, and lead the state to a just transition off oil and gas extraction. Let's support that effort by letting Governor Newsom know we want California to end oil drilling and fracking, and just transition to a clean energy economy as soon as possible.

### Contact Governor Gavin Newsom

**Call: (916) 445-2841**

**Write:** State Capitol, 303 10th Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814

**Send comment:** <https://govappa.gov.ca.gov/gov/gov40mail/>

### *Suggested phone script:*

*Hi, I'm a constituent from [City, ZIP], and I'm calling Governor Newsom because I'm concerned about the recent increase in oil drilling and fracking in California, and its impact on climate change. I urge the Governor to immediately develop a specific plan for California that looks beyond fossil fuels, employs emerging alternative technologies and provides for a just transition to a clean energy future. [In the meantime, please ask him not to issue any new permits for oil and gas extraction in California.] Thank you for taking my message.*

### *Suggested email or post card:*

*I'm concerned about the large increase in oil drilling and fracking in California in the last six months and about climate change due to carbon emissions. Therefore, I am requesting that Governor Newsom immediately develop a specific plan for California that looks beyond fossil fuels, employs emerging alternative technologies and provides for a just transition to a clean energy future. In the meantime, please do not issue any new permits for oil and gas extraction, [fossil fuel infrastructure, or petrochemical projects] in California. Thank you, [Name, address, zip]*

**Note:** A "just transition" means we protect and take care of the workers and communities where oil and gas are currently being extracted; and that boundaries be set up around certain toxic and polluting facilities immediately to protect the health of workers and people in surrounding communities while plans are being debated.

**SHEET 3**

## Action 4: Tell Senator McConnell to Bring S.1540 to a Vote in the Senate

In the past few weeks, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell again blocked two election security measures, arguing Democrats are trying to give themselves a "political benefit." (There are many House-passed bills that McConnell has refused to bring to a Senate vote; since we are focusing on democracy issues, let's contact him on these bills.) As you may know, there is clear evidence that US elections are subject to digital attacks from internal or external parties, and at least 25% of voting machines in the US do not have paper ballot back-up. California is one of the states that does have both an electronic and paper record for all voting machines, so we'll concentrate on the federal system.

Let's call or write Majority Leader McConnell to tell him that he needs to bring House-passed legislation, **S. 1540**, the Election Security Act of 2019 requiring the use of paper ballots and funding the Election Assistance Commission, to a Senate vote.

**Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY)

**Call:** DC Office **202-224-2541**; Fort Wright Office **859-578-0188**; London Office **606-864-2026**; Paducah Office **270-442-4554**; Louisville Office **502-582-6304**; Lexington Office **859-224-8286**

**Write:** The Honorable Senator McConnell, Majority Leader,  
317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
601 W. Broadway, Room 630, Louisville, KY 40202  
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 108, Lexington, KY 40503

**Email:** <https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/contact>

[Call or write as many offices as you want/can – this is part of a national campaign to pressure him to bring things to the Senate floor for a vote.]

*Suggested phone script:*

*Hi, I'm a calling to ask Majority Leader McConnell to **bring S.1540, the Election Security Act of 2019, to a Senate vote.** Given possible meddling, it seems very important to have paper ballot back-ups in every state in the United States. [if you are an Independent: you could mention that and add that election security is not a partisan issue.] Thank you for taking my message.*

*Suggested postcard or email script:*

*Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Please **bring S.1540, the Election Security Act of 2019, to a Senate vote.** Given possible intenal or external meddling, it seems necessaryto have paper ballot back-ups in every state. I believe legislative action is needed to protect the integrity of our democracy and maintain confidence in out elections. Thank you, (name, and profession or other).*

## **Action 5: Tell the FBI to Investigate and Stop DomesticTerrorism**

**Recently**, Dave Gomez, a former FBI supervisor, told the Washington Post that "he thinks FBI officials are wary of pursuing white nationalists aggressively because of the fierce political debates surrounding the issue" (in other words, that it will anger Trump's base).**Let's contact the FBI and ask them to use the full extent of their resources to stop domestic terrorism.**

**Write:** **Director Wray**, FBI Headquarters,  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

*Suggested script:*

*Dear Director Wray, Please direct the FBI, to use the full extent of its resources to stop domestic terrorism and the mass murders going on in our country. [They are causing terror and it's got to stop.] Thank you, [name]*

## **Action 6: Support S.2220 to Protect the Freedom of Information Act**

On July 23, 2019 a bi-partisan group of Senators, Feinstein (D-CA), Cornyn (R-TX). Grassley (R-IA), and Leahy (D-VT), introduced S. 2220, the Open and Responsive Government Act of 2019. This legislation would safeguard Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and ensure the public's right to information. According to the above lawmakers, the executive and judicial branches have both undermined the intent of

FOIA, which was originally passed in 1966 “to provide the public access to the records and the business of its democratic government.” Due to recent court decisions, the Senators felt it critical to codify ‘a presumption of disclosure for commercial records.’ for companies that do business with the government.

The FOIA is more vital than ever and we must not let it be eroded. How else can we shine the light of public oversight and make sure government programs are running as intended without reduce waste, fraud or corruption? **Let’s thank our Senator Feinstein for sponsoring this bill, along with Republican Senators Grassley and Cornyn, and ask Senator Harris to endorse it.**

**Senator Feinstein (D-CA)**

**Call:** D.C. Office: (202) 224-3841; SF: (415) 393-0707; LA: (310) 914-7300

*Hi, my name is \_\_, a constituent from [zip]. I’m calling to thank **Sen. Feinstein for introducing S. 2220, the Open and Responsive Government Act.** I agree with her that we must protect the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for taking my message.*

**Write:** 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

**Email:** [www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me)

*Dear Senator Feinstein, Thank you for introducing S.2220, the Open and Responsive Government Act. I agree that it’s vital to protect the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you, (name and zip code).*

**Senator Harris (D-CA):**

**Call:** D.C. Office: (202) 224-3553; Los Angeles: (213) 894-5000; Sacramento: (916) 448-2787

*Hi, my name is \_\_, a constituent from [zip]. I’m calling to ask **Senator Harris to co-sponsor S.2220, the Open and Responsive Government Act.** [Since the executive and judicial branches have recently undermined the Freedom of Information Act, it’s critical to defend it.] **Can you tell me if Senator Harris would be willing to co-sponsor S. 2220?** Thank you for speaking with me.*

**Write:** 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

**Email:** [www.harris.senate.gov/contact/email](http://www.harris.senate.gov/contact/email)

*Dear **Senator Harris, Please co-sponsor S.2220, the Open and Responsive Government Act.** Since the executive and judicial branches have both recently undermined the Freedom of Information Act, it’s critical to defend it’s purpose and codify a presumption of disclosure for commercial records] Thank you, (name and zip code).*

**Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)**

**Call:** DC Office 202-224-3744; Des Moines 515-288-1145; Cedar Rapids 319-363-6832;

**Write:** Honorable Chuck Grassley, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

**Email:** <http://www.grassley.senate.gov/contact>

**Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)**

**Call:** DC Office 202-224-2934; Houston Office 713-572-3337; Dallas Office 972-239-1310

**Write:** Honorable John Cornyn, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

**Email:** <http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/contact>

*Suggested script for Senators Grassley and Cornyn:*

*Dear Senator \_\_, Thank you for introducing S.2220, the Open and Responsive Government Act. I agree that it’s vital to protect the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you, (name).*