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Today’s Key Stories

Sheriff Jones’ liberal gun permit policy costs all taxpayers OPINION [ Sacramento Bee [5/31/16](http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article81014202.html) ]

Citizens in Sacramento County are paying around half of the costs of concealed carry permits because of a policy that was put in place by Sheriff Scott Jones.

The residents of Sacramento County are paying for the concealed carry permits for citizens who are seeking these permits. The state law concerning this issue dictates the amount that the sheriff of a certain county can charge for these permits. The fee is usually around $100 plus the cost of fingerprinting. In addition the law allows local officials to raise the price up to the Consumer Price Index.

As of now Sacramento County has not done this. The current cost of issuing concealed-carry permits exceeds inflation costs. The current fee for these permits doesn’t cover the entire cost of staffing, and the taxpayers of the county pay around half of the cost to make up for it. In the 2014-2015 fiscal year the cost to the Sacramento taxpayers doubled.

This has been an issue in other counties as well, but the California State Sheriff’s Assocoiation has not asked the Legislature for authority to raise the fees. Other sheriffs have stated that they do not have a desire to raise the fee for concealed carry permits because of the fear of how it would affect their elections.

The reporter states that he believes that this should be an issue brought up in the Legislature as they discuss the new budget this month. He further states that he believes that lawmakers need to make the language clear of what local authorities can and can’t charge on the issue of these permits.

Under Sheriff Jones the number of permits has increased from 350 to 8,000. Sacramento County is not the third-largest for number of concealed carry permits. Jones claims that issuing permits is not a “business enterprise”. Jones defends the price of the permits by stating that raising the price would harm the lower income residents of the county. The author retorts by stating that if someone can afford a gun and ammunition that they most likely are in the financial position to pay for the permit, which costs around $222.

The reporter claims that the $239,000 that is paid by taxpayers for the permits could be used for other needs of the county instead. Jones defended his policy by stating that it made the citizens of his county feel safer. The retort to this argument states that the citizens of the county do not feel safer because of the increase in permits.

India Likely To Get NATO Ally Status [In Serbia [5/31/2016](http://inserbia.info/today/2016/05/india-likely-to-get-nato-ally-status/)]

Amendments to the Defense Bill proposed by Bera have been approved and will allow India to have easier access to become a NATO ally.

Lawmakers recently approved amendments to the Defense Bill that would allow India to get the status of NATO allies. These amendments would make it easier for the US to sell defense equipment to India. The statement issued on the amendments said that the United States is interested in a technology transfer and wants to utilize India as a strategic ally in the region.

The amendments were proposed by Congressmen Holding and Ami Bera, the House India Caucus chairs, with Congressmen Ed Royce and Elliot Engel from House Foreign Affairs Committee. This boosted defense and security in the region would allow the United States to counter Beijing’s expansionism in that region.

California VA construction plans on hold in battle over benefits [ News Observer [5/31/16](http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article80952162.html)]

The dispute over veterans’ benefits in the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs has put a bill to fund VA facilities on hold.

There is a dispute over veterans’ benefits that has put $866 million worth of construction of medical facilities for veterans in California. Rep. Jeff Miller, the chair of House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, postponed the discussion of the funding bill. Federal statistics show that 1.85 million veterans live in California.

Veterans of Foreign Wars sent a memo asking Congress to vote against the bill because it relys on “veterans to pay for them with their disability compensation.” The executive director of Disabled American Veterans group claimed that the legislation would “cost veterans dearly by rounding down the percentage increase in their benefits.” The director continued by claiming that this would be the largest reduction to veterans’ benefits in over a decade.

In a statement Rep. Mark Takano from California stated that this hold is a consequence of Republicans “seeking to pay for construction projects by cutting veterans’ benefits.” He is urging Congress to find an alternative that supports the well-being of our veterans.

Takano is one of the four Californians on the House Committee for Veterans’ Affairs. Two of the other Californians on the committee, Jerry McNerney and Raul Ruiz, agreed with Takano in their statements. Ruiz said in his statement that partisan bickering is standing in the way of supporting our veterans and urged Congress to put veterans first.

The problems expressed by House Democrats surrounding the bill are that cutting veterans’ cost-of-living-adjustment benefit increases, there are more obstacles to veterans seeking help starting families from medical treatments such as In Vitro Fertilization, and it halts the plans to build outpatient clinics, earthquake protections, and research facilities in different areas of California. In addition it halts the revamping of the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Campus that houses and educates veterans.

The bill additionally would have provided money for constructions projects in thirteen other states. The department has been under pressure for the last two years after 40 veterans died while waiting for treatment. The Veterans Affairs Secretary, Robert McDoanld, has been under fire for his inappropriate comparison of veterans’ waiting times to lines at Disney World and the over spending for a hospital in Denver.

CA-07 Bera

Local News

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National News

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From The Campaigns

CA-10 Denham

Local News

California Presidential Primary Quickly Approaching [Turlock City News [5/31/2016](http://www.turlockcitynews.com/politics/item/5780-california-presidential-primary-quickly-approaching)]

The Turlock City News gave a candidate summary for CA 10 since their primary is coming up on June 7th.

The Presidential Primary Election is coming up in California on June 7th. Senator Barbara Boxer has retired from her senate seat, which has created a competitive race for her position. The article gives a summary from each of the candidates who are running for the 10th district.

Michael J. “Mike” Barkley, Democrat, described himself as a lawyer, certified public accountant, computer programmer, rancher, Navy veteran, and local activist. He believes that his mix of skills makes him a perfect candidate for Washington. His platform is very strong on labor and bringing jobs back to the United States. He plans to end deficit spending, fully fund Medicare, and protect Social Security. For the farmers in the district he plans to have 100% of the irrigation needs covered.

Michael Eggman, Democrat, has been endorsed by the California Democratic Party. He is a self described husband, father, and small business owner. He still manages the farm that he grew up on in Turlock. Eggman plans on protecting Social Security and Medicare, ending tax giveaways to companies that export jobs overseas, and making it easier for small businesses to grow.

Robert Hodges, Republican, says that his experience as a farmer and Denair School Board Member have showed him that the government is off track. He states that the plans to educate American children with Common Core, boosting national debt, and ignoring the constitution have caused major problems in our society. His plans are to secure our border, vote against funding abortion, take care of veterans, take pay away from Congress if they don’t pass a budget, create term limits for Congress, always reside within his district, and never raise the National Debt Ceiling.

Jeff Denham, the Republican Incumbent, stated that he has been working hard to improve the economy, protect farms and small businesses, increase water storage, and eliminate debt and wasteful spending. He claims that as a citizen of the district and former veteran he ran to help create a voice for his district in Washington. His top priorities are to control government spending, national security, create more jobs, and fight terrorism. He cites his Veterans Jobs Bill that was signed by President Obama as an example of his dedication to his constituents.

National News

From The Campaigns

CA-16 Costa

Local News

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National News

From The Campaigns

CA-21 Valadao

Local News

National News

From The Campaigns

CA-25 Knight

Local News

National News

From The Campaigns

CA-31 Aguilar

Local News

DECISION 2016: Paul Chabot condemns Sean Flynn ad attacking parole board votes [ The Press Enterprise [5/31/16](http://www.pe.com/articles/chabot-804380-board-parole.html) ]

Sean Flynn is attacking the voting record of his opponent Paul Chabot during his time of the California Parole Board.

In a mailer that was sent out last week, candidate Sean Flynn called his opponent Paul Chabot “No Show Chabot” for refusing to vote while serving on the California Parole Board. Flynn attacks Chabot for taking taxpayer money, while refusing to make decisions to keep the community safe.

Chabot served on the parole board from 2006 to 2015. He claims that he missed the votes while on deployment in Iraq. The flier specifically states that he abstained from six of the eight votes that were held on August 18,2009. Chabot’s defense is that “abstaining is a vote” and that he didn’t vote in those cases because he didn’t have knowledge of them. He claims that he wasn’t up to speed after returning to the country after his tour, and he didn’t believe that it was ethical to participate in those votes.

Local Firefighters Rally Behind Pete Aguilar [ Highland Community News [5/31/2016](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/political/local-firefighters-rally-behind-pete-aguilar/article_c482df12-277b-11e6-87b5-9303e2d971bb.html) ]

Local Firefighter Associations have endorsed the incumbent Pete Aguilar for Congress.

Congressman Pete Aguilar was endorsed by the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters, Rancho Cucamonga Professional Firefights, and Redlands Professional Firefighters. The president of the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Association said during his statement that this endorsement was made based on Aguilar’s dedication to public service and making their community as safe as it can be. Mike McCliman, President of the Rancho Cucamonga Professional Firefighters Association said that “he was more than just a ‘ good choice, but that he was the right choice’. In response to the endorsements Aguilar stated that he is proud of the service that the firefighters have dedicated to their community and he is honored by their endorsement.

National News

From The Campaigns

Veterans have stood behind Paul Chabot after Sean Flynn’s attack on voting record [ @davidsmarketing [5/31/16](https://twitter.com/davidsmarketing/status/737746193908785152) ]

Veterans within the district have stood behind Chabot after Flynn attacked him on his voting record on the California Parole Board.

“Local Veterans stand beside Congressional Candidate [@drpaulchabot](https://twitter.com/DrPaulChabot) to condemn a false set of… [https://www.instagram.com/p/BGFd\_E4D-wq/](https://t.co/XU5eG6uoB2)“

The veterans within the district have stood behind Chabot after his opponent Sean Flynn attacking his voting record while on the California Parole Board. Chabot defends his absences during his time on the board because of a deployment to Iraq. Many of the veterans in the district are angry that Flynn is using his time serving the country against him in his ad.

CA-36 Ruiz

Local News

National News

California VA construction plans on hold in battle over benefits [ News Observer [5/31/16](http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article80952162.html)]

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From The Campaigns

CA-52 Peters

Local News

Rep. Scott Peters Calls Donald Trump ‘Frightening’ Candidate [ Time of San Diego [5/31/2016](http://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2016/05/31/rep-peters-calls-donald-trump-frightening-candidate/)]

Peters stated his view of Donald Trump during early voting and stated that he voted for Hillary Clinton.

Rep. Scott Peters was asked about Donald Trump during early voting on Tuesday. His response was “fightening…appalling…dishonest…reckless.” Peters who serves on the House Armed Service Committee said that Trump’s call to exit NATO was “scary”. He continued by saying that he voted for Hillary Clinton because “she’s one of the most qualified persons to ever run for President.” He further acknowledged that she wasn’t a perfect candidate, but that he was supporting her because “I’m not a socialist.”

Peters voted early because during the June 7th primary date he will be in Washington because Congress will be in session.

National News

From The Campaigns