

# GOV. NEWSOM GOES TO WASHINGTON TO ADVOCATE FOR CALIFORNIA PRIORITIES

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Gov. Gavin Newsom traveled to Washington, D.C., for meetings with senior Biden-Harris Administration officials and members of California's congressional delegation. During the week, he pushed for increased resources to improve public safety and quality of life in California. The post Gov. Newsom Goes to Washington to Advocate for California Priorities first appeared on Post News Group.

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**By Bo Tefu, California Black Media**

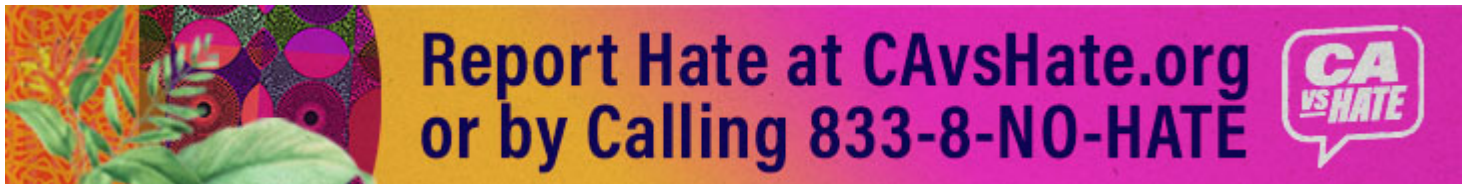
Gov. Gavin Newsom traveled to Washington, D.C., for meetings with senior Biden-Harris Administration officials and members of California's congressional delegation.

During the week, he pushed for increased resources to improve public safety and quality of life in California.

"California is continuing our work to secure additional tools and resources to improve access to health care, clean air and water, and secure critical funding to support communities recovering from disasters," said Newsom.

At the White House, Newsom met with President Joe Biden and key officials, advocating for disaster relief funding, healthcare expansion, and environmental protection. He also engaged in discussions with senior Biden-Harris officials, including Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, to address water quality improvements and the San Luis Dam project, which will support water supplies for two million Californians.

"Building on our strong partnership with the Biden-Harris Administration, California is working closely with the White House over the next two months to deliver the critical protections and resources our communities need," Newsom said.



On Capitol Hill, Newsom met with California Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff, along with other Congressional leaders, to emphasize the need to approve pending disaster funding, healthcare programs, and environmental protections. He also previewed California's upcoming special session to proactively address potential federal challenges when President-elect Donald Trump is sworn into office.

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Newsom's discussions also focused on securing Medicaid waivers from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to enhance behavioral health services and reduce homelessness. The state seeks approval for the BH-CONNECT waiver, which would address behavioral health and homelessness, and the MCO Tax Waiver, which would provide over \$20 billion for Medi-Cal to improve healthcare access.

Additionally, California is pushing for Clean Air Act waivers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which are crucial for enforcing air quality regulations. These measures are projected

to prevent 11,000 premature deaths and provide \$116 billion in health benefits over the next three decades, according to the Governor's office.



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