

Political Grab Bag

By Steve Bagby Sr., Political Action Committee Chair

For the month of December 2021, the Political Grab Bag will include information submitted by Valerie McDonald involving County Supervisorial Redistricting Maps and a commentary about President Biden's "Build Back Better" legislation written by Political Commentator, Frank Talk. Thank you Valerie!

THE FIGHT OVER REDISTRICTING MOVES TO THE 2ND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

A Citizens Redistricting Commission is drawing lines (maps) for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. There are several Redistricting Commission meetings that you can/should attend (which will be held virtually) to express your viewpoint about the Redistricting Maps that are currently being reviewed. Of the Maps that are being considered, there is a threat to Supervisorial District 2, now led by Supervisor Holly Mitchell. We need to encourage the PROTECTION OF HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN DISTRICT 2, so that African Americans can be represented "at the table" by electing a candidate of their own choice.

For the Black community, it is important to take notice that the co-chairs of the Commission are Carol Williams and Jean Franklin, two African Americans. At a recent meeting, it was Jean Franklin who cried out, "Time is of the essence!" That is a message not only to the Commission, but to us. Let us attend the meetings to let our voices be heard. The future meetings are scheduled for Sunday, December 5th and Sunday, December 12th at 3:00 p.m., and Tuesday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m., PST. [Go to www.redistricting.lacounty.gov for more details and to track the work of the Commission over the past months. More importantly, submit written comments and attend the upcoming meetings, where public comment is welcomed.](http://www.redistricting.lacounty.gov) Spread the word by encouraging all stakeholders in South Los Angeles County to speak during the public comment period.

Yes, the public is encouraged to provide input on map draft options and how they should be changed or not. These fall public hearings are important to solicit

community and public input regarding the Redistricting Plan options under consideration. Members of the public are also welcomed to make changes to the map draft plans and submit modified plan submissions.

- To **attend or participate virtually**: [Click Here](#) or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726060927>
- To **listen only**, call (669) 900-9128, enter: 82726060927#
- To **view via web on YouTube**: [Click Here](#) or <https://www.youtube.com/LACountyRedistricting/>
- To **submit written comments on draft map options** at any time: [Click Here](#) or <https://publiccomment.redistricting.lacounty.gov/>
- To **review agenda and additional materials**: [Click Here](#) or <https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/virtual-meetings/>

COMMENTARY ON “BUILD BACK BETTER” by Political Commentator, Frank Talk:

Passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of the Biden-Harris Build Back Better agenda with no Republican votes represents a significant expansion of the "social wage," the array of benefits paid for by American taxpayers (society) to support the people and their families that produce America's wealth through their labor (work).

Provisions of the House passed measure include:

\$555 billion to fight climate change

\$400 billion for universal pre-K

\$200 billion for child tax credits

\$200 billion for 4 weeks of paid sick and family leave

\$165 billion on healthcare spending

\$150 billion to expand affordable home care for the elderly and medically challenged

\$150 billion for affordable housing, rental assistance and the unhoused (homeless)

Where is all this money coming from?

A minimum 15% corporate tax, enhanced IRS enforcement on upper income taxpayers and increased income taxes paid by those who earn more than \$400,000.

Much has been written about the "cost" of the estimated \$1.75T to \$2.2T (over ten years) measure. Some express concern about its impact on the deficit, national debt and inflation.

The discussion prompts one to look up the recently passed defense authorization bill, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), to compare, but more importantly, try to understand the details using the same standard. The final approved one year NDAA amount was \$763B, \$10B more than Biden requested. It passed the House with over 300 (bi-partisan) votes.

1. The ten year cost of the NDAA is nearly \$8T.
2. The Department of Defense estimates inflation for 2022 at 1.2%.
3. The NDAA does not include nearly \$100B for veteran benefits. Inclusion would mean \$862B on military-related spending or nearly \$9T over ten years.
4. These amounts DO NOT include the interest paid by taxpayers on that portion of the nation's cumulative debt attributable to past military and war related debt. Recall that the Afghanistan-Iraq "war on terror" was financed on the nation's credit card through "off books" supplemental budget bills in the early years of the conflict. This approach contributes to a structural deficit - annual spending that is not paid for by annual revenue from tax collection.

5. Past audits of Pentagon spending have revealed military contracting is among the federal government's most wasteful expenditure of taxpayer money and subject to widespread waste, fraud and abuse.

So, when you hear senators of both parties express alarm at the Biden-Harris Build Back Better program expenditures on the deficit, inflation and the national debt, ask yourself where was this concern when they enacted an \$8T (over ten years) NDAA that was \$100B (over ten years) MORE than the administration requested?

Thank you for reading!

(December 2021)