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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 16

CANDIDATE SEEKS TO HALT RECOUNT

Santa Clara County: Officials plan to continue despite effort by Low's lawyers



PHOTOS: KARL MONDON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ballots are gathered for a recount between Evan Low and Joe Simitian in the Congressional District 16 race on Tuesday at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters in San Jose. The two candidates tied for second in voting, with Sam Liccardo finishing on top.

By Grace Hase
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Citing potential election law violations, Assemblymember Evan Low tried to halt the recount in the Congressional District 16 race, with his lawyers sending a notice to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters asking them to stop it just days before it was set to begin, according to a letter obtained by this news organization.

But without giving any reason, the Registrar of Voters said Tuesday they plan to continue with the recount and did not comment on Low's allegations that certain deadlines were missed.

Low and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian are cur-

rently tied for second place in the race to replace longtime U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo. The two candidates — along with former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who came in first — were set to move on to the November general election after the historic tie, the first for a congressional race in the state after California switched to a top-two open primary system more than a decade ago.

But last week, two individuals filed paperwork in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, which are both part of the district, requesting a recount of the votes.

On April 12, Jonathan Padilla, a 2020 Biden delegate and former Liccardo mayoral cam-

RECOUNT » PAGE 5



Election workers set up for recount voting at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters in San Jose. A historic tie for second in the Congressional District 16 race has forced the decision.

CALIFORNIA

Becker calls for insurers to step up

Legislator wants firms to consider fire prevention work that has been done

By John Woolfolk
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Insurers in California have sounded the alarm: A warming climate has dramatically raised the risk of devastating wildfires, and with it the cost of providing coverage. But now a Peninsula lawmaker says those insurance companies should credit the state and homeowners for the work done to reduce our vulnerability to wildfires.



Becker

State Sen. Josh Becker, a Menlo Park Democrat, has introduced a bill that would require insurers to consider the state's efforts to thin flammable brush and trees as well as property owners' steps to make their homes more fire resistant, such as covering vents and clearing vegetation. Those efforts would need to be incorporated into their risk modeling to determine coverage decisions and costs.

"What we're seeing is that in addition to the impact of home hardening, that forest treatment is going to have a big impact on wildfire risk, and that's not being taken into account," Becker said. "You have to take these into consideration."

Becker's bill, SB 1060, comes as state officials scramble to prop up a home insurance market on the brink of collapse, with major insurers restricting coverage and refusing to renew policies in many parts of the state. The bill is scheduled for its first hearing before the Insurance Committee on April 24.

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association, which represents insurers, said that while it supports wildfire mitigation efforts such as home and community hardening, the bill "has several complicating factors to consider."

"The California Department of Insurance already requires insurers that use risk models to take

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TWISTS AND TURNS OF THE JOB

'Disentanglement team' removes protesters

By Rick Hurd
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OAKLAND » Jackhammers, saws and drills were out in force on Interstate 880 on Monday, but it wasn't for a construction project. Instead, the California Highway Patrol had to figure out how to remove protesters from the freeway who had used large barrels, concrete and pipes to try to stay in place.

There were demonstrators doing everything they could to keep the roadway blocked on one side, and a line of angry motorists, fuming at being trapped in traffic, on the other.

As CHP spokesperson Officer Andrew Barclay summed up: "It was a day."

The protests against the war in Gaza — during which demonstrators gathered on northbound I-880 near the 5th Avenue exit in Oakland; on the 7th Street and frontage road on-ramp to southbound I-880; and on the Golden Gate Bridge — resulted in hours of traffic delays and ended



ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Law enforcement officers approach protesters attached to barrels after they shut down traffic on a part of Interstate 880 in Oakland on Monday.

with 38 people arrested. Twenty-six of them were on the bridge.

It brought a mixture of reactions — including from Gov. Gavin New-

som, who, during a Tuesday news conference about climate agree-

ment in California, said he sup-

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JAN. 6 INSURRECTION

Justices skeptical of law to charge rioters

By Adam Liptak
New York Times

WASHINGTON » The Supreme Court seemed wary Tuesday of letting prosecutors use a federal obstruction law to charge hundreds of rioters involved in the Capitol attack on Jan. 6, 2021.

A decision rejecting the government's interpretation of the law could not only disrupt those prosecutions but also eliminate half of the charges against former President Donald Trump in the federal case accusing him of plotting to subvert the 2020 election.

Trump's case did not come up at the argument, which was largely focused on trying to make sense of a

statute, enacted to address white-collar crime, that all concerned agreed was not a model of clarity. But the justices' questions also considered the gravity of the assault and whether prosecutors have been stretching the law to reach members of the mob responsible for the attack, which interrupted certification of Joe Biden's electoral victory.

Justice Clarence Thomas, who returned to the bench after an unexplained absence Monday, asked whether the government was engaging in a kind of selective prosecution. "There have been many violent protests that have interfered with proceedings," he said. "Has the govern-

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WEATHER

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