

November 11, 2022



## CRA Membership E-blast

Hello {First Name},

The California Rheumatology Alliance remains dedicated to providing updated news and resources to our membership. We appreciate and encourage any feedback to assist in our service to our members. What do YOU want us to talk about? We'd love for these newsletters to be used as an opportunity for us all to learn from each other, so if there's anything specific you're interested in learning more about from other people involved with the California Rheumatology Alliance, let us know by emailing [info@calrheum.org](mailto:info@calrheum.org).

Visit our Website

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### What is new in CRA advocacy:

The Legislature will reconvene in December to swear in new members and start the 2023/2024 session. The mid-term elections did not see much change in the political landscape of California. At the top of the ticket Democrats have won and maintained all of the statewide offices including a victory for Governor Newsom over Republican candidate State Senator Brian Dahle. A Republican has not held a statewide office since January of 2011 and the last Republican to win a statewide election was Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006.

There are still a few legislative races close enough to not have a declared winner, but the composition of the California Legislature will remain mostly the same with the Democrats having a "safe" supermajority in both the Senate and Assembly.

Coming into the election there were 63 Democrats, 19 Republicans, and one independent in the Assembly. Once the election is finalized, we may see a slight decrease in the number of Democrats, but it will still be more than the 54 needed for a supermajority.

In the Senate there were 32 Democrats and eight Republicans. Once again, we could see an increase in Republicans by possibly one but still not enough to change the supermajority of 27 needed in the Senate. The real drama coming out of the election was around who would be Speaker in the Assembly going forward. Anthony Rendon, an Assemblymember from the Los Angeles area has been Speaker since 2016. He is termed out of the Assembly in 2024. You may recall earlier this year Assemblymember Robert Rivas, from the Salinas area, made an attempt to overtake the Speaker role and called for an election in May. The Democrats caucused for more than six hours with the eventual outcome of Speaker Rendon maintaining his leadership role and some "vague" recognition that Assemblymember Rivas would be the next Speaker. There was no date agreed upon for this transition.

With this setback, Mr. Rivas began recruiting new Democrats who would be running for election in 2022 that would further support him being Speaker instead of current Speaker Rendon. This led to a small group of incumbent Democrats, led by Mr. Rivas, to form their own PAC to funnel money to those new Democratic candidates. Yesterday, the Democrats came to Sacramento for a caucus meeting to discuss who should be Speaker. After more than six hours of discussion it was announced Speaker Rendon would remain in his role as Speaker until June 30, 2023, and then the Speaker role would transition to Mr. Rivas. Part of this deal is the committee chairs will remain the same and there will be no punishments by Speaker Rendon for those who are supporting Mr. Rivas.

The transition date is somewhat unusual as it is in the middle of the first year of the 2023/2024 session. Many insiders believe this will create some confusion in the Assembly as the transition occurs and committee chairs and other leadership positions within the Assembly are changed. Also, for those who like political drama, this "transition" is not binding and many things can change over the next six to eight

months.  
For now, the Democrats in the Assembly seem united on this plan, but time will tell if it holds up.

If you would like to get involved in advocacy whether it be learning more about the bills, contacting your local legislator on important advocacy issues, or even testifying on bills being considered, please contact Tim Madden at [madden@mqadvocacy.com](mailto:madden@mqadvocacy.com)

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