



SBWPC Legislation & Advocacy Committee Report December 2016
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson

1. Please give us an update on your involvement in mentoring women to participate in the political process since our last interview a year ago (e. ., appointments to boards or commissions, encouragement to run for office).

Lee Heller was appointed to the Veterinary Medical Board. The Veterinary Medical Board licenses and regulates those who practice veterinary medicine, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Consumer Affairs. However, appointments are more typically done by the Board of Supervisors, not state senators.

Sen. Jackson speaks at variety of groups and on campuses as a representative of the Legislative Women's Caucus, discussing equal pay, campus assault, new parent leave, and maternity/paternity leave. The Women's Caucus is a strong and respected force. Her goal is to continue to find common ground and stay united. She is the outgoing chair of the Women's Caucus; Connie Leyva is the incoming chair.

She also speaks at many women's organizations, sororities, and has interns. She wants to start more internships and has been advocating for them to be paid, because not everyone who would do well in internship can afford period without pay.

She inquired if SBWPC has internship opportunities and if not, we should start.

2. SB 899 (Hueso) about gender discrimination in retail pricing apparently died. Do you anticipate opportunities to revive this issue in the next legislative session?

Business-oriented Democrats likely added to the opposition. Sen. Jackson has worked on this issue for a long time and will continue to do so.

3. Please tell us diversity on your staff and any changes that have taken place this year, particularly regarding women and their roles, as well as other ways diversity is reflected in your staff (e.g. ethnicity, LGBT, etc.)?

Sen. Jackson's staff is very diverse in terms of gender, color, and sexual identity. She recently hired a woman to replace Liara Goodman as District Representative, and her Chief of Staff is a woman.

4. What, if any, new patterns or trends do you see emerging in the CA Legislature

Currently there is a troublesome decline in women in elected office.

Sen. Jackson sees women losing to male challengers in their party primaries because men are better funded by their political parties. For example, when Fran Pavley (Ventura) termed out of the Senate, Janice Kamenir-Resnick and Henry Stern were Democratic primary opponents for the seat. Kamenir-Resnick lost and Stern went on to win in the general election. Jackson supported Nancy Skinner (East Bay) who won. But Jane Kim (SF) for Senate, and both Vicki Veenker and Patty Lopez for Assembly lost. She noted that Sandra Fluke (LA) also lost 2 years ago.

Senator Jackson stated that we lost Congress in 2016 in terms of not electing a woman. She emphasized that women don't run if women don't stick together to support female feminist candidates. She observed that women must be assured that other women have their backs and strongly urged SBWPC to work hard towards the goal of supporting well-qualified women, endorsing them, and getting them elected.

5. In what ways would you like to see SBWPC support you with respect to specific issues in the future?

Senator Jackson suggests we send letters to politicians like Assemblymember Jim Cooper who has a more business-centric outlook and will abandon progressive causes if people don't hold him accountable for prioritizing them. He is an example of a "corporate Democrat," and is the new head of the "moderate" caucus in Sacramento.

6. What else would you like to share with the SBWPC? (e.g., bills of which you are especially proud, contributions you have made or foresee making in the future)

- Sen. Jackson is proud of "Yes Means Yes" expansion to K-8. She states that we should be inquiring at the SB Board of Education on how SB County schools are implementing that program/requirement. Are other school boards around the state complying? Consider linking up with women's groups in other cities to monitor this.
- Sen. Jackson will continue to pursue equal pay legislation but notes it needs more publicity; "we need more fanfare!"
- The law regarding reducing the influence of salary history when hiring helps women get better pay. It is not as strong as she would have liked, but compromises had to be made to pass it. Her goal for the next session is to eliminate salary history as a factor entirely. This will require a legislative review and impact analysis.
- The senator's goal is to draw in Latinas in the Ventura area. She had three Spanish speakers on staff. Her district is 40% Spanish speaking.

- NOTE: Senator Jackson needs a field rep in the Oxnard area. Contact James Joyce on her staff. She will supply his card so SBWPC can include it in our newsletter for use by anyone who wants to apply.
- She asks: Because Mayor Helene Schneider's term is up, what women are running or coming up who we can support?
- The city needs more women, women of color, and younger women.
- Sen. Jackson thinks "we are too insular in our blue bubble." We should be considering coalitions with people in other districts and connecting with women's groups around the state (particularly in Bakersfield and Central Valley) and country (OH, PN, MI, etc.). "Create sister groups in 'heartland' cities."
- Her goal as a founder of SBWPC was 500 members. Where are we now? How might we reach 500 or more? [note: SBWPC membership is approximately 300, with 800 on our mailing list.]
- Issues must be framed around their economic effects, even reproductive rights.
- Democrats have been defending achievements rather than pushing ahead. We need to do more of the latter.