

CA-HI NAACP ANALYSIS

Report On Governor Brown's Third Term

From Appointments To School And Prison Reform, Gov. Jerry Brown Is Making Good Moves For California's Ethnic Community

By ALICE HUFFMAN
Publisher, MINORITY NEWS

During the middle of Governor Jerry Brown's second term as Governor, a document was produced to reflect his inclusion of California's African Americans. His appointments were extraordinary and the first time a significant number of African Americans were given nontraditional leadership at the state level in so many areas of governing that, until then, were closed to our community. The document stated "Brown Opens Doors to Minorities: Appoints more than 280 Blacks to Major Posts; Works for Equal Opportunity."

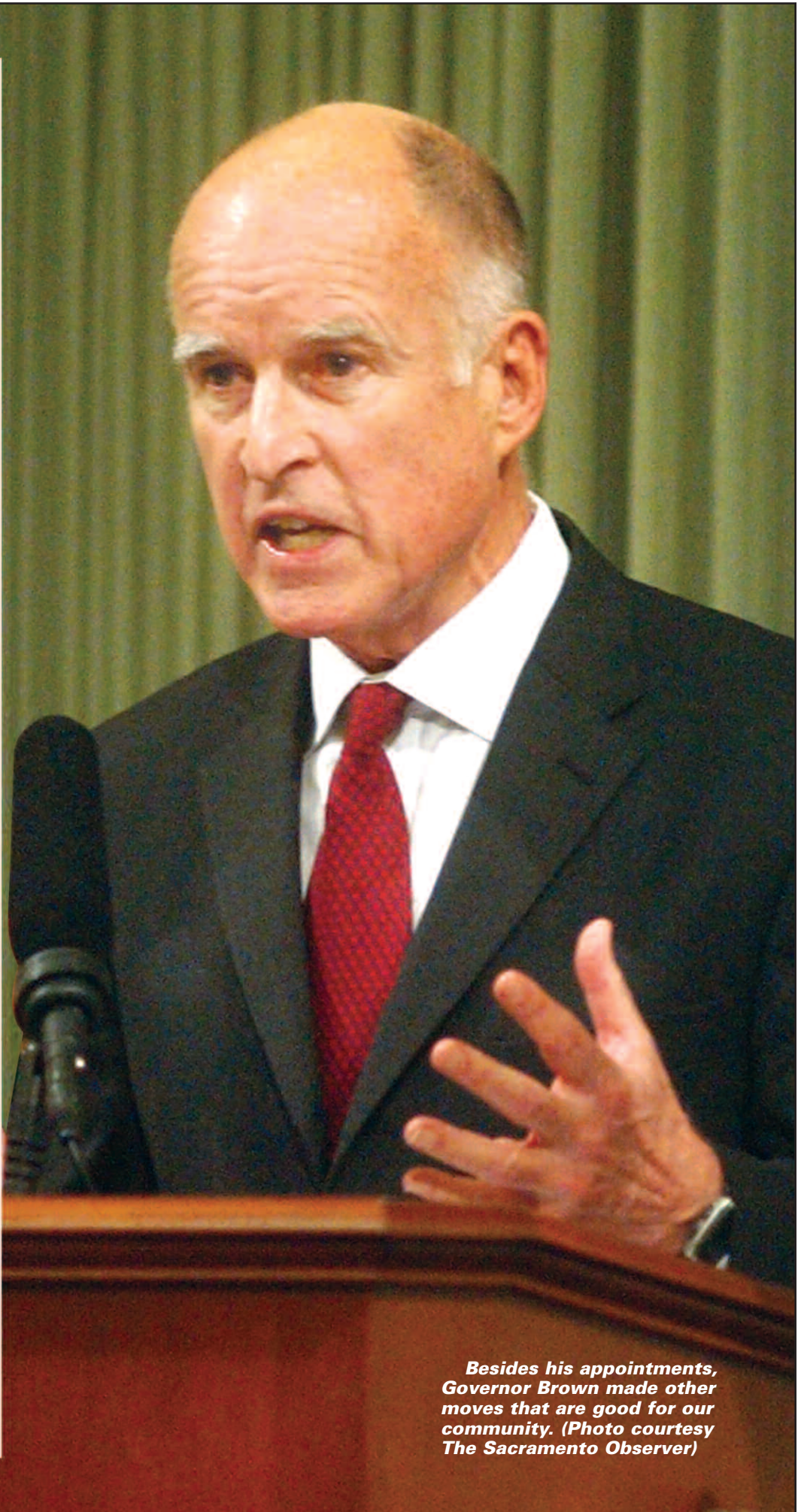
Midway through his third term we can report that if he keeps the pace up of his appointments, by his mid fourth term, he may equal or surpass that number. Our count today is a total of 135 appointments in his administration and 12 Judges for a total of 147. He is at the halfway mark on his previous record. Besides his appointments, Governor Brown made other moves that are good for our community. He revolutionized public education, realigned the Criminal Justice System raised the minimum wage and is devoting mental health and education funds to reentry prisoners.

POLICY ISSUES

Governor Jerry Brown came to the third term in the mid-

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A Look At Gov.
Jerry Brown's
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Besides his appointments, Governor Brown made other moves that are good for our community. (Photo courtesy The Sacramento Observer)

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dle of one of the greatest recessions. Like most of the country, the state was broke, unemployment was at an all-time high, the housing market was in the pits, prisons were bulging, public schools broken and the un- or under-insured citizens going broke because of the lack of health insurance enormous. In his inaugural speech, he pledged to return as much as possible decisions and authority to cities, counties and schools, closer to the people.

PRISON REFORM

He devoted his first year to the realignment of state departments to lean out the fat, and realigned prisons to reduce their ever growing populations of mostly African Americans and Latinos and began a corner office strategy to release those incarcerated for low level crimes that were not a danger to society. He invested more than \$1 billion dollars in new health care facilities and new treatment space, including a new, 1,722-bed facility with hundreds of new doctors, nurses, psychiatrists and other medical and mental health care staff in California's prisons; this historic prison reform realignment he has released more than 25,000 prisoners.

A major reform that is high on the agenda: SB 649 (Leno), that revises the state penalty for drug possession for personal use from a felony to an alternate misdemeanor/felony. The law does not change the penalties for sale, transportation, manufacture, or possession for sale. This modest reform is very important to California's minority communities, which suffer disproportionate arrest, prosecution and incarceration rates for drug law violations. The governor did not sign this measure.

Ban the Box bill AB218 by Assembly Member Roger Dickinson will further reforms the NAACP began

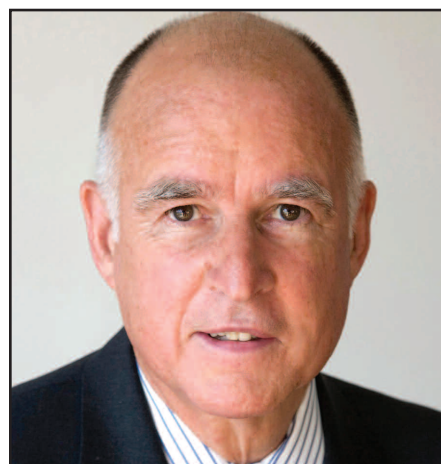
with Governor Schwarzenegger to remove the felony box off of state job applications where possible to give ex-offenders a shot at winning employment. This measure was signed by the Governor.

SCHOOL REFORM

Governor Brown signed Local Control Funding Formula July 1, 2012 that turned upside down the funding formulas and targeted funding formulas known as categorical that existed the last 40 years that were believe to be the right approach to eliminate funding strapped to programs for the low income and poor performing schools. It is a truly revolutionary approach to education. He turned the education decisions back to the classroom where real decisions are made and directing the money where the need and the challenge are greatest. This is a good day for California, it's a good day for school kids and it's a good day for our future.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Governor signed AB 60 which enables millions of immigrants to drive legally on California's roadways. He



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said it will help millions of people get to work safely and should send a message to congress that immigration reform is long overdue.

The Governor signed the California Dream Act To Expand Educational Opportunity To All Qualified Students Taking action to expand educational opportunity to all qualified students, who were raised in California regardless of their parents legal status.

MINIMUM WAGE

The Governor raised the minimum

wage bill indicating that "The minimum wage has not kept pace with rising costs and that this legislation is overdue and will help families that are struggling in this harsh economy.

LGBT RIGHTS

The Governor signed SB 48 by Senator Mark Leno to Recognize Contributions of LGBT Americans, Pacific Islanders And Persons With Disabilities. The bill revises existing laws that prohibit discrimination in education and ensures that the important contributions of Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life are included in our history books.

HEALTH MEDICAL EXPANSION

Governor Brown signed legislation to continue the Affordable Health Care Act. He said "While extreme radicals in Washington shut down our government, here in California we're taking action to extend decent health care to millions of families," said Governor Brown. California has been a leader among states in implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and establishing its health benefit exchange.

Brown's Remarks At The 50th Anniversary Rally On The March At The State Capitol

Thank you. Back in 1963 I had the opportunity to go to Mississippi and see the conditions of oppression and racial isolation and prejudice that existed then. We've made enormous progress and while there are many miles to go, let us never forget that we have made significant progress in our schools, in our economy in our communities. Nevertheless inequality is growing, not just in California but throughout the United states, throughout the world as a matter of fact.

Those who often suffer the most are those marked by race, sometimes by ethnicity or religion or sexual orientation. We have plenty of work to do and it's balancing the achievements, the progress we're making with the road yet to be traveled.

Here in California we passed a landmark school bill that actually directs money based on the needs of families and kids. Wherever there is low income families there will be more money directed for the first time. Wherever there are families that don't speak English, more money will be directed. Wherever there are foster care kids more



money will be directed. That's the kind of unequal treatment that creates equality over the long term. Treating unequals equally is not equality and it's not justice.

So should I say anything more? No I don't want to though, there's a lot more people that want to talk here.

Here in California we've got a real sparkplug in your NAACP leader, she was just in last week. I won't tell you all the things she

Gov. Jerry Brown speaks as California-Hawaii NAACP President Alice Huffman looks on. (Photo courtesy The Sacramento Observer)

asked me to do, because it would shock you, but she's doing the job, doing the work and together we will overcome. It's not about gradualism, it's about getting the job done by all means necessary.

Thank you.

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