



INFORMER

2, February 2008

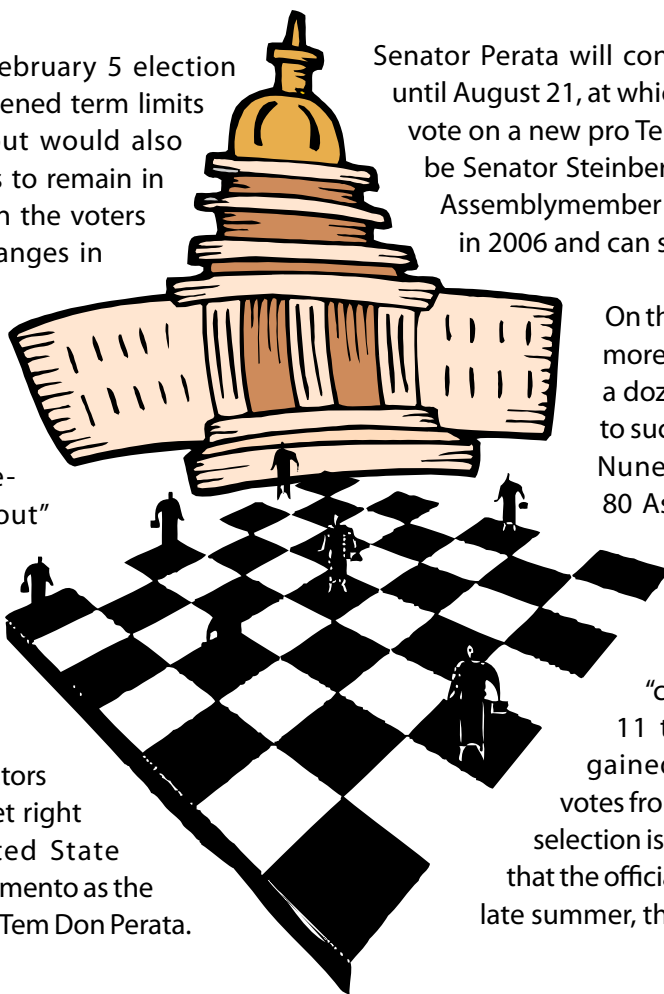
Professional Engineers in California Government

Legislative Leadership Changes

Proposition 93 on the February 5 election ballot would have shortened term limits for Legislators by two years, but would also have allowed current Legislators to remain in office several years longer. When the voters turned it down, it triggered changes in the Legislative leadership in both the State Senate and the Assembly.

Three of the four Legislative leaders are not eligible for re-election and will be "termed out" at the end of this year. Only Assembly minority (Republican) leader Mike Villines can run for re-election to one more two-year term this fall.

Twenty-five of the forty State Senators are Democrats. Their "caucus" met right after the election and selected State Senator Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento as the successor to Senate President pro Tem Don Perata.



Senator Perata will continue to serve in his position until August 21, at which time the Senate will formally vote on a new pro Tem. If nothing changes, that will be Senator Steinberg, a former labor attorney and Assemblymember who was elected to the Senate in 2006 and can serve until 2014.

On the Assembly side, there was a bit more of a scramble, with at least half a dozen Assemblymembers seeking to succeed Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez. Democrats hold 48 of the 80 Assembly seats, so 25 votes are needed for the Democrats to choose a new Speaker. As no decision was reached yet, the Assembly Democratic "caucus" will meet again on March 11 to determine if anyone has gained enough support to get 25 votes from his or her colleagues. Even if a selection is made at that time, it is probable that the official replacement won't occur until late summer, the same as in the Senate.

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Engineers Week February 17-23



**ENGINEERS
WEEK® 2008**
February 17-23

The California State Senate adopted a Resolution recognizing February 17 through 23 as National Engineers Week.

Authored by Senators Alex Padilla, Dave Cox, Denise Ducheny, and Tom Torlakson, the Resolution recognizes engineers as the “link

in transforming scientific discoveries into useful products” as they “design and develop crucial infrastructure needs, including levees and waterways, roads and bridges.” The Resolution emphasizes the need to encourage students to enter the field of engineering.

PECG President Elect Mark Sheahan accompanied Senator Alex Padilla on the Senate floor as he introduced and received unanimous support for the Resolution. It also praised the continuing efforts by the California Engineering Education Council (CEEC) of which PECG is a founding member.

PECG and many members are also participating in local Engineers Week events in Sacramento and around the State.



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