



Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Governmental Affairs Agenda & Directory

10 Ways the Chamber Helped Your Business

Here are just a few ways the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce has helped improve the region's overall business climate in the past year.

Led lobbying efforts that gained approval of a UCR Medical School.

1 After months of rigorous lobbying by the Chamber and the community, the Regents of the University of California authorized UC Riverside to proceed with the first phase of planning for a School of Medicine. In May 2006, UCR proposed to establish a School of Medicine that would serve the medically underserved in Inland Southern California by training a diverse workforce of physicians, with innovations in research, education, and health care delivery that resound throughout the state and nation. The Chamber led efforts to organize and establish the Inland Empire Coalition for a UCR Medical School, which gained broad community support. Projected to begin in fall 2012, the school will be the first new public medical school west of the Mississippi since 1971.

Secured the appointments of five business friendly community leaders to state boards and commissions.

2 As a rapidly growing region, the Chamber works diligently throughout the year to ensure a friendly business climate. The Chamber has focused on increasing our region's voice by gaining Inland Empire representation on state boards and commissions. The Chamber and the community have assisted in this appointment process by establishing a working relationship with the Governor's Appointment Secretary and staff, tracking open positions, and making qualified candidate recommendations. The Chamber is proud to have assisted five business friendly community leaders secure appointments in 2006, most recently Bruce Varner to the University of California Board of Regents.

Made the voice of business heard at annual lobbying trip to Sacramento.

3 Chamber members met with legislators and elected officials to discuss the region's most pressing issues at the Chamber's annual Capitol Connection lobbying trip to Sacramento. Attendees met with the appointments and health secretaries, as well as local legislators to discuss a range of issues including battling healthcare reform and workers compensation. The group then attended the California Business Legislative Summit, hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce, which draws prominent speakers each year including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Endorsed strong pro-business candidates through the GRCCPAC.

4 Kevin Jeffries, Virginia Blumenthal and Jose Medina, who were interviewed and endorsed by the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Political Action Committee (GRCCPAC), were selected by the voters of Riverside County to serve their constituents in the November General Election. Kevin Jeffries was elected to the 66th Assembly District seat, and Virginia Blumenthal and Jose Medina were elected as Riverside Community College Board of Trustees. The GRCCPAC provides a vehicle for citizens to impact the political process by allowing them to support pro-business representatives and take positions on issues that ensure the interests of business are maintained and protected. Candidates apply and participate in an endorsement interview process.

Launched and sold-out a successful Candidate Academy.

5 Business leaders, educators, and municipal employees gathered as political hopefuls for the launch of the Chamber's first Candidate Academy. The Candidate Academy was established to enhance the leadership qualities of individuals interested in running for elected office positions. The four-week, one night per week training program featured a distinguished speaker lineup to discuss fundraising, crafting and delivering an effective message, talking with the media, and the challenges facing our region, among other topics. Two of last year's program attendees went on to run for elected office positions and won in their election cycles. The seminar series is nonpartisan and informational only.

Gave members the opportunity to meet the candidates at Candidate Forums.

6 The Chamber prides itself on providing its members with the tools they need to be informed about the candidates and issues that affect their community. As a business liaison and citizen, being informed is critical to making the right decisions on Election Day for our community. That is why the Chamber hosted two Candidate Forums for the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees and 66th Assembly District races. The Chamber will also host a Candidate Forum for the Riverside City Council in March 2007. The Candidate Forums is a great opportunity to learn about how your future representatives plan to meet the present and future needs of the region.

Hosted a distinguished lineup of speakers from Sacramento.

7 Whether it is at Good Morning Riverside, the Legislative Summit, a Legislative Roundtable, or a Governmental Affairs Council meeting, the Chamber prides itself on connecting its members with legislators, state policy makers, and experts. Last year, speakers featured at Good Morning Riverside included State Appointments Secretary Timothy Simon, State and Consumer Services Agency Secretary Rosario Marin, and State Chief Deputy Director of Finance Anne Sheehan. California Chamber of Commerce President Allan Zaremberg briefed 300 Chamber members on the General Election at our annual Legislative Summit. Senator Bob Dutton, Assemblyman Benoit, and former-Assemblyman Bogh, have attracted hundreds of business leaders to Chamber-hosted Legislative Roundtables.

Chamber testimony at JPA produces hundreds of new jobs for the region.

8 Chamber members sought and gained approval before the March Joint Powers Commission for TESCO, Wild Rocket Foods, and 2 Sisters Food Group, who would produce hundreds of jobs in and around March Air Reserve Base (ARB). The Chamber was concerned that environmental court challenges brought against the company might delay redevelopment of the base. Chamber members from the East Hills Division were on hand to testify in support of the two companies. The March Joint Powers Commission endorsed the projects unanimously.

Lobbied successfully to ease affects on businesses from water and electric rate increases.

9 In two separate instances, the Riverside City Council approved the Chamber's recommendations for a modified water and electric rate plan. Chamber members attended the Public Utilities and City Council meetings to voice their concerns about how the rate increases would affect their business and urged them to consider a gradual phase-in for both proposals. Approval of the plans eased the pain of necessary rate increases, yet still allowed for the needed infrastructure improvements called for by Riverside Public Utilities.

Raised awareness of regional health care crisis by hosting successful Riverside Healthcare Forum.

10 While most of the U.S. faces countless health care issues, these issues are intensified in the Riverside area – one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Recognizing that our health care, public safety, education and local governmental leaders must work together to develop solutions to our region's shortfall of physicians and nurses, seismic issues, and bed shortages, the Chamber took an important step toward that effort by hosting a Healthcare Forum. The county's leading providers and educational institutions joined keynote speaker Kimberly Belshé, California Health and Human Services Secretary, to analyze and debate the issues. Over 300 concerned employers and community members attended to learn more about what can be done to redirect our county's healthcare forecast from critical to fit.



GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The Chamber...building a stronger local economy.

Dear Member:

On behalf of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, we are pleased to present the Chamber's 2007-2008 Governmental Affairs Agenda & Directory, provided to you as another value of your membership.

It is critical to remember that the future of your business depends on your involvement, as well as the involvement of your employees, in both the legislative and political process. Regulations and laws will affect your business whether you take the time to learn about them ahead of time or not. Similarly, candidates will win or lose regardless of your involvement. Becoming politically involved allows you to make your voice heard and to play a role in improving the overall business climate in California. The Chamber is here to assist you in this process. The information outlined in this guide was designed to help you become an effective grassroots and political advocate.

The composition of the 2007 Governmental Affairs Agenda & Directory is threefold. First, the **Agenda** outlines the Chamber's policy platform, providing a basis for employers and the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Council (GAC) to act on local, state and federal business related legislation and issues. Second, the **Directory** allows users to identify and find information on their local, state, and federal elected representatives. Third, the **Resource** section references information such as how the California legislative process works, how to read a bill, and when to report contributions, which allows you to easily navigate through the legislative process.

The Governmental Affairs Agenda & Directory continues to serve as a resource tool for employers, community leaders, and elected officials. Refer to this publication when you want to schedule a meeting with your City Council member, visit our state capitol, write a letter to your legislator, or to simply identify the supervisorial district in which you live. We hope that the information outlined in this guide proves to be helpful to you. As an employer and a Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce member, you can be a powerful voice for change. We look forward to working with you on your behalf to ensure the continued success of business in Riverside.

Sincerely,



Craig Blunden
Chair, Board of Directors



Cindy Roth
President /CEO

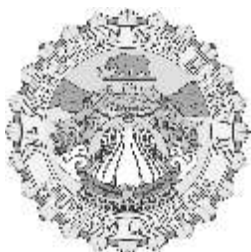
“Becoming politically involved allows you to make your voice heard and to play a role in improving the overall business climate in California.”

Thank You to our Sponsors

The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce wishes to thank the following sponsors for their invaluable assistance in the publication of this guide.



We'll treat you right



Acknowledgements

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Our Committees Equal Action

Governmental Affairs Council (GAC)

What is the GAC?

The Governmental Affairs Council provides a basis for the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce to act on local, state, and federal government issues, thus creating a favorable and profitable business climate for the region by reviewing and taking positions on a range of business related legislation and issues, including education, labor and employment law, health care and tax policy. The GAC meets on the second Friday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Chambers office. Meetings are open to all members, and are informational only.

How the GAC Works

GAC members have the authority on behalf of the Board of Directors to approve any legislative positions of "support," "oppose" or "no position" that align with the approved policy platform of the Board of Directors. GAC members correspond with state legislators, and/or appropriate persons, in response to legislation and/or legislative issues that the GAC has taken a position on. This may include writing and e-mailing letters, and/or making phone calls. Voting will be conducted by Council members.

Who Serves on the GAC?

The Council consists of 21 voting members representing different areas of expertise. Composition is representative of the general Chamber membership. GAC members serve one-year terms, with no term limits. Members may apply to serve on the GAC, but must submit an application to be considered. GAC members are appointed by the GAC Chairman on an annual basis. The GAC Chair will receive nomination forms for membership from January 1 to February 13 of each year. Those interested in serving on the GAC may obtain an application by contacting the Chamber.

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Staff: Michelle Awadalla
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Political Action Committee (GRCCPAC)

What is the GRCCPAC?

Formed in 2003, the GRCCPAC is a nonpartisan political action committee (PAC) that works to protect business-friendly interests by identifying and campaigning for pro-jobs candidates running for local and state legislative seats. GRCCPAC members wish to protect, preserve and further good government; and foster a political environment that will strengthen the private enterprise system by soliciting campaign contributions from private individuals and distribute these funds to political candidates and initiatives. The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce and the GRCCPAC are separate organizations.

Why Contribute to the GRCCPAC?

Many companies, especially small businesses, do not have the time to attend city council meetings, county board meetings or travel to Sacramento on a regular basis. The GRCCPAC was formed to represent your best interests and ensure California is a business-friendly state with minimum government regulations and taxation. Through the GRCCPAC, resources of like-minded employers are pooled to have a greater impact on legislative campaigns. Even if the races are outside of a business' own district, the GRCCPAC provides a vehicle for citizens to impact the political process to create a pro-jobs majority throughout California.

The GRCCPAC has been highly successful in helping to elect business-friendly candidates that share our concerns. In fact, in the 2006 election cycle six out of seven candidates supported by the GRCCPAC won in their races.

How the GRCCPAC Works

The GRCCPAC was developed so that the business community could have a greater impact on legislative campaigns. GRCCPAC members, who are comprised of Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce members and business leaders, are very familiar with the community's concerns and decide to whom funds will be distributed. Candidates seeking endorsement are required to go through an extensive application and interview process. The decision of whether to support a candidate is based on the individuals past and continuing support of the business community's agenda.

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AGENDA

Public Policy Platform

The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce is the largest and most broadly based business organization in Riverside, and one of the largest Chambers in Southern California. The Chamber develops its policies and practices based on the underlying principle that creating and promoting a pro-business environment at the state and local level will directly enhance the base of private enterprise. This base is essential to maintaining a vibrant, market-based economy. In determining a position on proposed legislation and other public policy issues, the Chamber is guided by its mission to build a stronger local economy with emphasis on the following areas.

Overall Public Policy Platform

Promote a Pro-Business Environment:

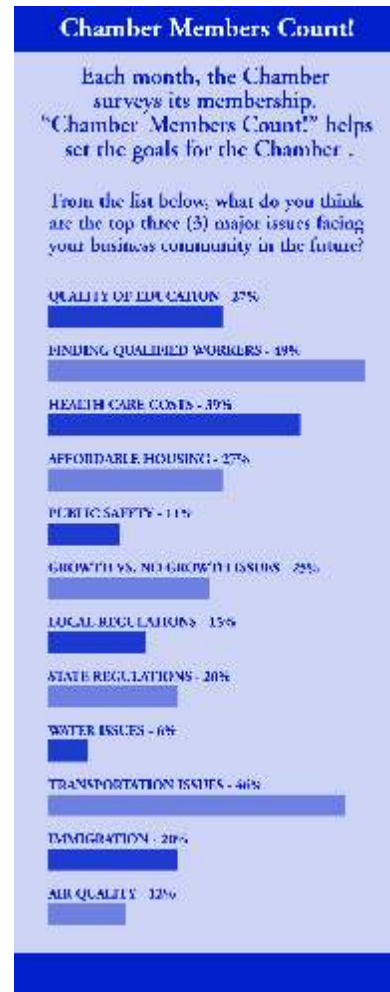
- Facilitate a market-based economy by supporting the removal of regulatory and tax barriers, and promoting litigation reform.
- Support infrastructure improvements related to energy, water, air, transportation and communications.
- Promote workforce development by supporting training and education.
- Coordinate community, business, and government support for important regional issues.
- Regularly update members and create opportunities for their involvement and participation in the Chambers legislative activities.

Promote Government Reform:

- Support the elimination of duplicating and overlapping agencies.
- Promote improved communication between governing bodies.
- Monitor planning, spending, and the implementation and progress of government programs and infrastructure projects.

Maintain an Active and Visible Chamber Presence:

- Actively recruit and support applicants for state and regional appointments and elected office.
- Inform governing bodies and decision makers on local, state and federal levels on important regional issues.



Business/Regulatory Reform

California, particularly Southern California, relies heavily on its vast natural, human and technological infrastructure to attract new investment. However when considered as a whole, special assessments, taxes and fees represent a considerable added cost for businesses of all sizes and may deter investments. In order to sustain a climate in which a successful enterprise may be run, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce believes we must remain competitive where it counts, on the bottom line.

The Chamber supports:

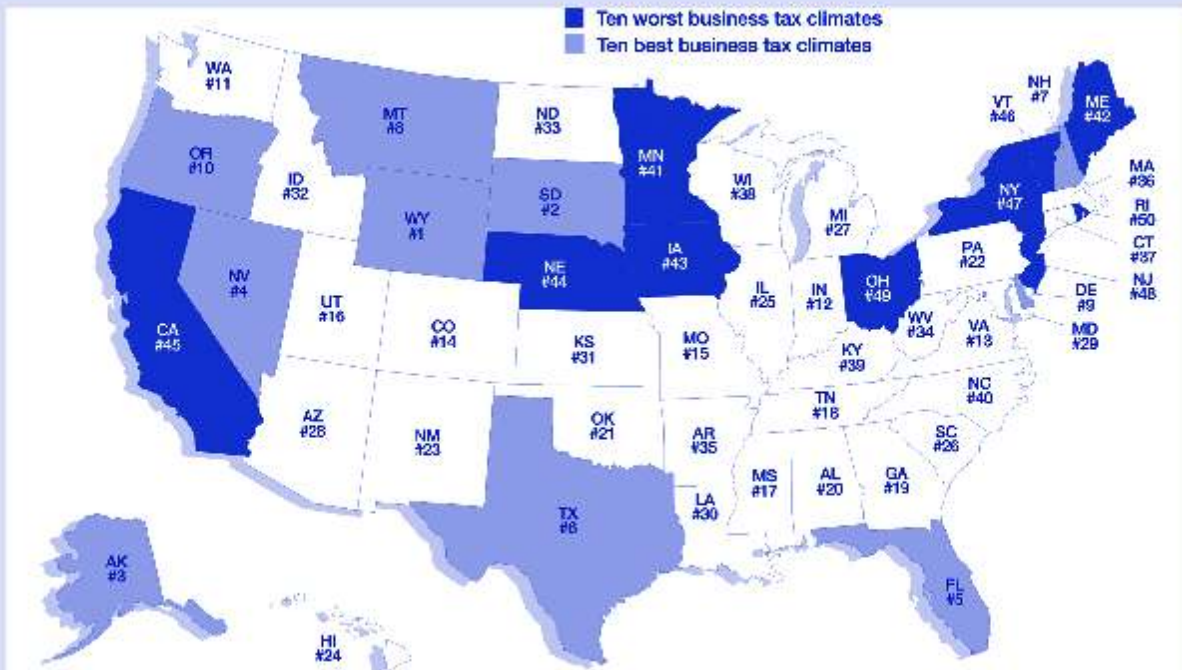
- Efforts to secure tax credits for research and development.
- Efforts to secure tax credits for targeted work training programs.
- Simplification of state income, banking, and corporate tax systems.
- Privatization of government services and public contracts.
- The reinstatement of the ability to negotiate predispute jury waivers contained in contractual agreements to be used as a legitimate legal tool.

- Legislation that negatively affects civil litigation against businesses.

The Chamber opposes:

- Unnecessary state and local tax and fee increases affecting the Riverside business community.
- Project Labor Agreements.

State Business Tax Climate Index, 2007



Source: Tax Foundation

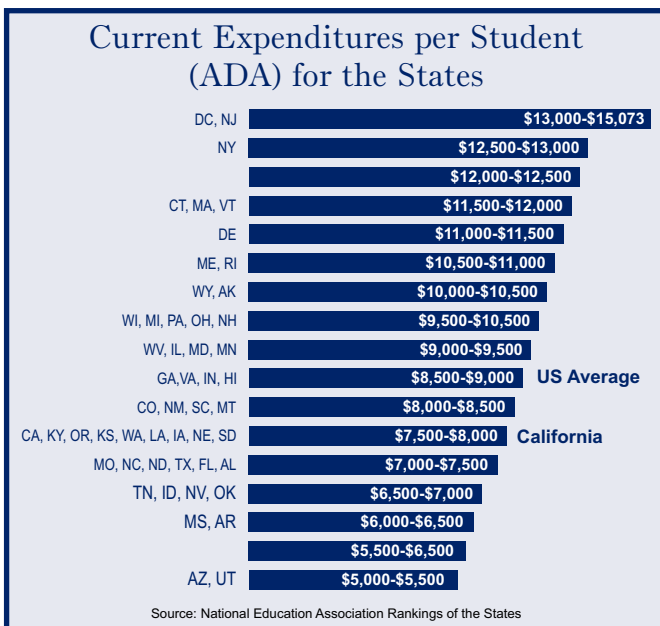
Education and Workplace Preparedness

An educated and highly skilled workforce is a key element to operating a successful enterprise and business. Access to well-qualified workers, workforce development training, and the advancement of existing employee-base is an ever-increasing challenge. However, these factors are essential to keeping pace with the increasing demands, changing technologies, and market place needs. Meeting these needs involves a variety of programs, which range from industry based training programs and apprenticeship, vocational education, continuing education, or traditional higher education.

With the reduction of funding of public programs, it is imperative that the resources available to Riverside and our region are leveraged and supportive of industries and business needs. We should advance the higher educational opportunities within our community. It is vital that business play an integral part of this education through mentorship, job-shadowing, internships, academies and business partnerships. These experiences and exposure to job requirements and opportunities demonstrate the qualities necessary to succeed as an employee or in a business enterprise. Support by the business community is a worthy investment and more vital than ever to help students gain an understanding of the expectations of the work place.

The Chamber Supports:

- Assessments and accountability of education standards.
- The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) as a graduation requirement.
- Investment in professional training for teachers, increasing API and CAHSEE scores, and educational advancement programs.
- Creating structures for increased control of education funding, effective governance and fiscal flexibility at the local level.
- The expansion of vocational and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.
- Creating greater access through the higher education system including matriculation programs between institutions, and CAL Grant funding.
- Increased equalization funding for K-12.
- Federal funding for the “Schools and Libraries Program,” which helps local libraries provide critical Internet and technology services.
- Increased funding and legislation that supports the California School for the Deaf Riverside (CSDR) and Sherman Indian High School.
- Legislative funding for the establishment of the University of California Riverside's Medical School and biomedical program to increase physician supply and to serve the Inland Empire's increased health care needs.
- The expansion of nursing and ancillary programs to ensure the community has adequate health care staffing.
- Student access to current technology to equip graduates with the tools necessary to meet workforce needs.
- Opportunities that increase collaboration between education and workforce development.
- Developing the Riverside Regional Technology Transfer Center (R-TECH).
- Increased City incentives for the expansion of day care facilities, and private and charter schools.



Employee Relations

The costs associated with hiring workers, maintaining a safe workplace and complying with governmental regulation represents the largest ongoing cost for many, if not most, companies. This is particularly true in California, where workers' health care costs, expansion of employer liability, and wage hikes continue to increase costs, limit flexibility and confuse both employers and employees. The Chamber encourages the business community to aggressively address and seek reforms for policies that leave California at a competitive disadvantage in business attraction year after year.

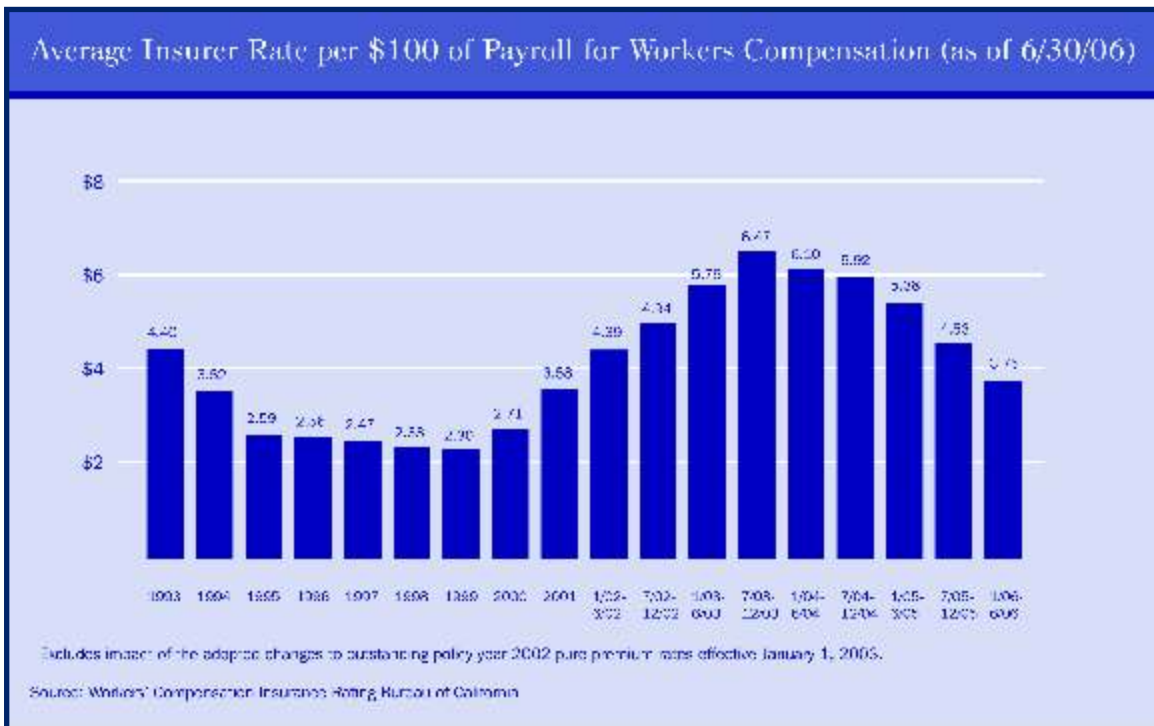
The Chamber supports:

- Workers compensation reform efforts.
- Reduction of mandated health care costs/liability to employers.
- Monitoring family care and medical leave employment laws.
- Unemployment Insurance Reform.
- The preparation of cost/benefit analysis, when appropriate, to ensure economic impacts are weighed before the imposition of regulatory statutes.
- Legislation to help businesses avoid Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) shake-down lawsuits, such as opportunities to make a good faith effort to correct an alleged ADA violation before being subject to a lawsuit.

- Finding alternatives to minimum wage increases such as improving the educational and vocational skills of low-wage earners to help them move up the wage ladder.
- Laws and government regulations written in plain, simple language for workplace rules to ensure that employers know how to comply with the law and that workers are clearly informed of their rights.
- Greater flexibility in work schedules for individual employees.

The Chamber opposes:

- State minimum wage increases.
- Laws and regulations that unfairly penalize employers.



Health Care

While most of the U.S. faces a multitude of health care issues, these issues are intensified in Riverside. Our region faces a pending health care crisis if solutions to increasing shortages of physicians and nurses to serve a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse population are not found. The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce promotes a sound and quality health care system that is available, affordable, and which improves the overall health of California citizens. Efforts to contain costs while avoiding unnecessary and expensive regulatory controls, including mandates that drive employers away from offering their own policies, are critical. The Chamber encourages the business community to participate in redirecting our county's health care forecast from critical to fit.

The Chamber supports:

- Policies to reduce health care costs and assure that all Americans have access to affordable and quality health care.
- Conformity to federal law on health savings accounts (HSA's).
- A moratorium on further attempts by the state to place unfunded mandates on hospitals (i.e. nurse ratios).
- Increased state funding on Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements to providers of health care, rather than attempts to further cut current reimbursement rates.
- Work to curb the expansion of litigation in the health care system.
- Policies that encourage continued medical discoveries and innovations that improve quality of care.
- Controlling pharmaceutical costs.
- Actions that preserve the current voluntary employer-provided health coverage system.
- Efforts to contain the costs of premiums by opposing mandates of specific health benefits.
- Legislation to allow employers to offer more affordable benefit plans that allow choices in coverage.
- Federal and state reforms that allow small businesses to obtain group coverage and increased advantages from tax deductible medical care saving accounts and association plans.

The Chamber opposes:

- Proposals to establish a government-mandated health care delivery system in California.

Riverside County's health care crisis by the numbers

- 87 percent** amount premiums increased for family coverage since 2000
- 750,000** Riverside and San Bernardino County residents lack health insurance coverage
- \$1,186** amount the average family pays each year in health insurance premiums to cover the uninsured
- 1,724** patients for every doctor working in the Inland Empire
- 7,000** the number of RN shortages the Inland Empire is expected to have by 2030
- 52** the average age of nurses is California
- 3,265** additional physicians are needed to bring the Inland Empire to national physician work force level
- \$2 million** the cost per hospital bed



Source: Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Healthcare Forum

Immigration

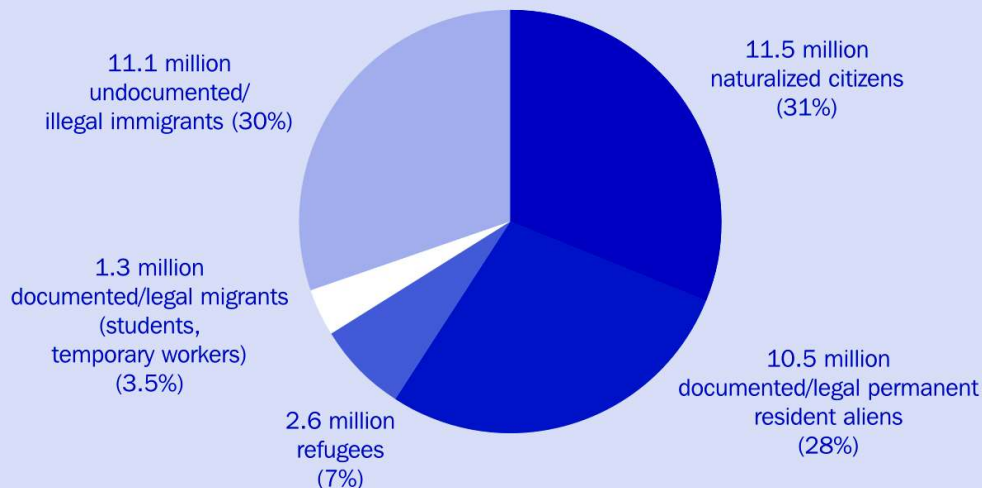
Immigration has a significant impact on California's economy, affecting all facets of commerce. Immigrants are an essential part of the labor force and more than \$35 billion in goods cross the U.S.-Mexico border every hour. Unfortunately, the current system allows for a substantial level of illegal immigration, and legal immigration levels are set far too low to meet the demand for labor in the U.S. economy. In order to ensure the state's continued prosperity, reforms need to be made to U.S. immigration policy. The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce encourages the business community to consider measures that create an earned pathway to legal status by securing our borders, establishing a guest worker program, improving the visa program, and combining stricter enforcement.

The Chamber supports:

- Providing greater border security.
- Protecting our border through shared responsibility with neighboring countries, Mexico and Canada.
- The availability of adequate resources to detain and deport undocumented/illegal aliens.
- Establishing a guest worker program for all workers that consist of time limits on workers depending on the industry.
- The creation of a comprehensive database that interfaces with state, national and international criminal and terrorist databases with privacy protections.
- A shared verification system in which employers partner with appropriate state agencies to streamline the process.
- The separation of immigration and guest worker program requirements.
- Requirements for employers who use the guest worker program to pay for the program.
- Improving the visa program based on professional service requirements and market demand.
- Penalties on employers and individuals who knowingly hire undocumented/illegal immigrants.

Characteristics of Foreign-Born Immigrants

37 million foreign-born immigrants



Source: Pew Hispanic Center

Infrastructure

As Riverside seeks to redefine its economic efforts to compete effectively for the future, we must continue to improve our infrastructure, particularly in the areas of energy, water, air, housing, transportation and communications. These systems provide the foundation for accelerated business growth, increased capital, investment, and an improved quality of life. Worthy improvements require smart investment, sound management, and a creative partnership between the public and private sectors. As government budgets continue to shrink, spending priorities will become more difficult to identify. The business community must emphasize the importance of continued infrastructure investment.

The Chamber supports:

- Facilitating regional support for infrastructure issues that align with the Chamber's positions and eliminating independent agendas.
- Public/private partnerships to improve our infrastructure systems.

FREEWAY CONDITIONS			
DAILY VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL (VMT) ON FREEWAY SEGMENTS IN WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY			
Existing versus Future			
	VMT	VMT at LOS F	%VMT at LOS F
Existing: Caltrans Year 2004	20,960,532	13,672,444	65%
Future: Year 2030 Post-Processed	31,469,853	31,113,875	99%
Growth: (2004 to 2030)	10,509,321 50%	17,441,431 128%	34%

VMT- Vehicle Miles Traveled
LOS F- Forced or breakdown flow, the lowest measurement of efficiency for a road's performance.
Source: Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)

- Engaging the Chamber membership and leadership in policy discussions with local, state and federal representatives as it pertains to options for alternate funding for infrastructure improvements.
- Efficient, reliable and cost-effective energy, air and water resources.
- Acquisition of federal and state dollars for local projects that ensure water supply quality and reliability.
- State and federal regulations that will preserve the ratemaking authority of publicly owned utilities.
- The promotion of home ownership and livable communities.
- Recommendations regarding the improvement efforts to the 60/91/215 Freeways.
- Increased funding for grade separations and additional projects that mitigate the impact of goods movement.
- Legislation to increase off-hours use of port facilities, which will allow more efficient movement of trucking traffic on highways in and out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.
- Tax credits and incentives that allow companies to voluntarily agree to fees to assist in the movement of goods.
- Technology expansion within the City of Riverside boundaries.
- The use of eminent domain as a critically important tool and resource for effective redevelopment, to be used only after all possible avenues have been exhausted.
- Construction or acquisition of a Federal Building and Courthouse to meet the expanding regional business needs of the U.S. Courts and other federal agencies in Riverside-San Bernardino counties.
- Monitoring and assisting in the rational development and implementation of the City of Riverside's Capital Improvement Program (Riverside Renaissance Initiative).
- Additional expansion of March Air Reserve Base and Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Corona.
- March Joint Powers Authority in development of the region.

International Trade

As one of the fastest growing regions in the country, international trade represents a major economic engine for both local and regional economies. In 2005, Inland Empire international business created 50,000 jobs and \$17.5 billion in import and export transactions. Recognizing the importance of the continued development of international trade, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce supports policies that promote the expansion of free and fair trade whenever possible. Strengthening ties and increasing economic opportunities in the world's largest marketplaces is vital to maintaining the state's competitiveness in the global business community

CALIFORNIA'S WORLD RANKING GROSS PRODUCT (In Current US\$)		
Rank	Countries	(\$ Billions)
1	UNITED STATES	12,455
2	Japan	4,506
3	Germany	2,782
4	China (excluding Hong Kong)	2,229
5	United Kingdom	2,193
6	France	2,110
7	Italy	1,723
8	CALIFORNIA	1,622
9	Spain	1,124
10	Canada	1,115
11	Brazil	794
12	Korea	788
13	India	785
14	Mexico	768
15	Russian Federation	764
16	Australia	701
17	Netherlands	595
18	Switzerland	366
19	Belgium	365
20	Turkey	363
21	Sweden	354
22	Saudi Arabia	310
23	Austria	305
24	Poland	299
25	Indonesia	287

Sources: California Department of Finance Economic Research Unit

The Chamber Supports:

- Fair and equitable market access for California products abroad.
- Communicating public policy positions before the state and federal government, on international issues of importance to the Riverside business community.
- Legislation that broadens and strengthens relationships and opportunities with America's major trading partners and which reduces barriers to trade and investment.
- Foreign trade zone program as a vehicle to maintain global competitiveness.
- Efforts to achieve and maintain a stable and competitive relationship between the U.S. dollar and the currencies of major trading partners.
- Building a Riverside economic sphere of influence to enhance trade and commerce between Riverside and the global marketplace.
- Informing Riverside citizens, legislators and businesses, about the benefits of trade to the state's economy.
- The allocation of funding for new customs inspectors dedicated to serving the needs of the Inland Empire.

The Chamber opposes:

- Disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California businesses.
- Protectionist-oriented legislation that leads to higher prices, limited choices for consumers, and job loss in related industries.
- State and local legislation that imposes sanctions on businesses engaged in international trade and/or conflicts with federal international policies.



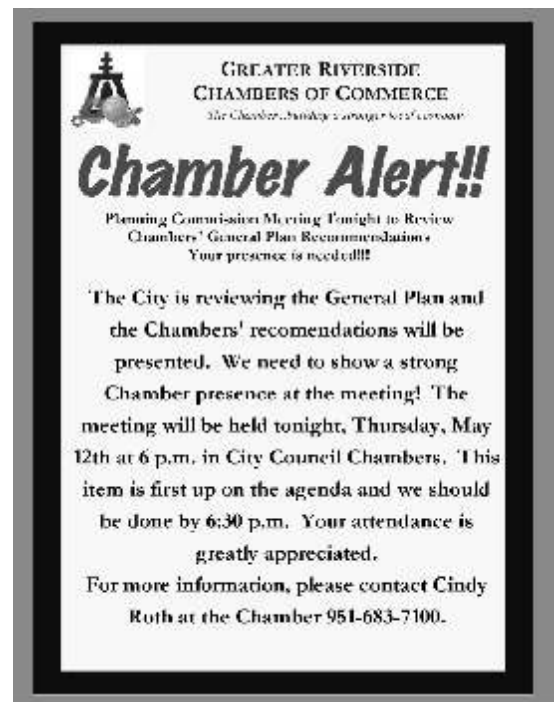
DIRECTORY

Election of Pro-Jobs Candidates Benefits the Economy

The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce believes that pro-business leadership at all levels of government is an essential ingredient in cultivating a vibrant, healthy, and functional business environment. The decisions made by public policymakers have a direct impact on your business and the economy. The business community makes a difference by allowing its voice to be heard as a result of voting for a pro-business agenda. The Chamber encourages the business community to invest in the election of candidates and issues that will positively affect the growth of jobs and regional businesses.

The Chamber supports:

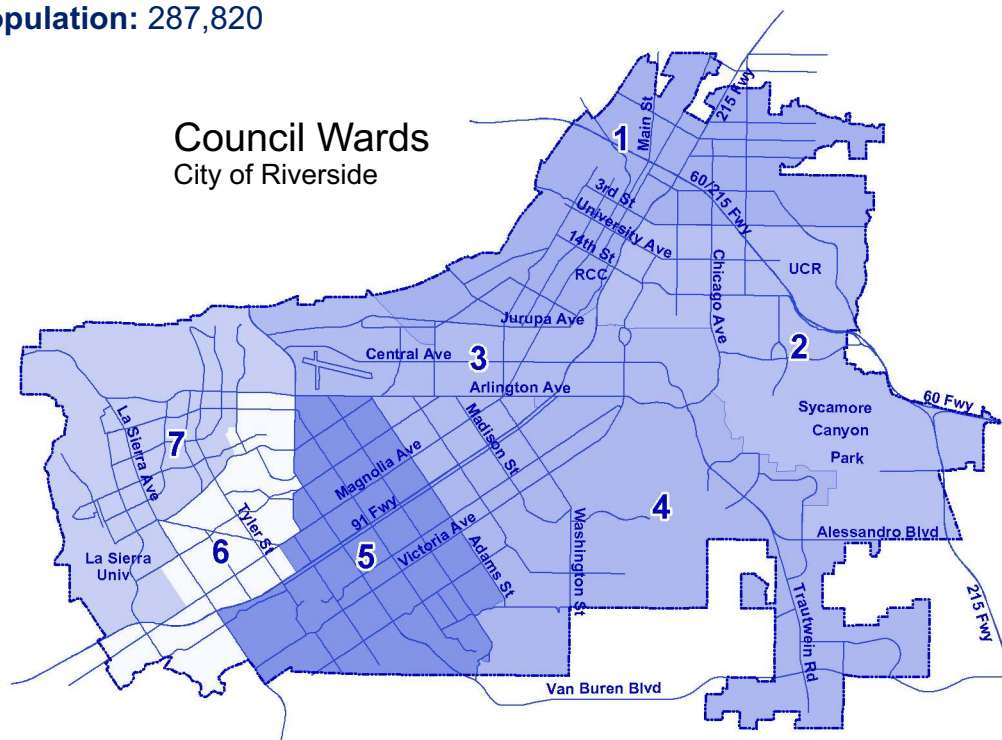
- Efforts to elect pro-business candidates running for city, county, state and federal offices.
- Monitoring and making recommendations on the selection and filing of vacant city, county and state commission and board appointments.
- Increasing the number of nominations and funding for judges in the region.
- Policy makers that have a clear track record for voting business friendly.
- Pro-business candidate endorsements made by the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Political Action Committee (GRCCPAC).
- Fair reapportionment for Assembly and Senate Districts to reflect accurate geographic representation.
- Maintaining a strong working relationship with local, state and federal representatives and their staff, to keep them informed of the Chamber's views on legislation and how it affects the business community.
- Informing the California Chamber of Commerce and chamber affiliates on regional issues.
- Pro-active participation by the Chamber membership at City Council meetings to make recommendations on business related agenda items.
- Informing businesses on key issues and legislation so that they may be equipped with the information necessary to vote.
- ***Utilizing the Chamber Alert system to give members the opportunity to act immediately on priority items by e-mailing letters to their local, state, and federal representatives.***
- Annual Capitol Connection lobbying trip to Sacramento for Chamber members.
- Recommending changes, when appropriate, to Chamber policies.



City Council Ward Boundary Map

City of Riverside Population: 287,820

- 1. Betro
- 2. Melendrez
- 3. Gage
- 4. Schiavone
- 5. Adkison
- 6. Hart
- 7. Adams



Council & Standing Committee Monthly Meetings

Mondays			
2nd	2:30 p.m.	Community Services & Youth	7th Floor Conference Room
2nd & 4th	3:30 p.m.	Finance	7th Floor Conference Room
3rd	10:00 a.m.	Public Safety	7th Floor Conference Room
4th	2:30 p.m.	Governmental Affairs	7th Floor Conference Room
Tuesdays			
1st	11:00 a.m.	Mayor's Nominating & Screening Committee	Mayor's Office
1st & 3rd	1:00 p.m.	City Council Closed	Council Chambers
1st & 3rd	3:00 p.m.	City Council Public	Council Chambers
1st & 3rd	6:30 p.m.	City Council Consent & Discussion	Council Chambers
2nd & 4th	2:00 p.m.	City Council Closed	
2nd & 4th	3:00 p.m.	City Council Public	
2nd & 4th	6:30 p.m.	City Council Consent & Discussion	
4th	3:00 p.m.	Workshops	
Thursdays			
2nd & 4th	8:30 a.m.	Utility Services, Land Use & Energy Development	7th Floor Conference Room
2nd	1:00 p.m.	Transportation	7th Floor Conference Room
3rd	3:00 p.m.	Development Policy	7th Floor Conference Room

Riverside Mayor & City Council



Mayor
Ron Loveridge
Phone: (951) 826-5551
Fax: (951) 826-5470
E-Mail: rloveridge@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: November 2009



Ward 1
Dom Betro
Phone: (951) 826-5991
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: dbetro@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: June 2007



Ward 2
Andy Melendrez
Phone: (951) 826-5991
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: asmelendrez@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: June 2009



Ward 3
Art Gage
Phone: (951) 826-5991
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: agage@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: June 2007



Ward 4
Frank Schiavone
Phone: (951) 826-5991
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: fschiavone@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: June 2009



Ward 5
Ed Adkison
Phone: (951) 826-5991
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: eadkison@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: June 2007



Ward 6
Nancy Hart
Phone: (951) 826-5991
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: nhart@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: June 2009



Ward 7
Steve Adams
Phone: (951) 826-5991
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: sadams@riversideca.gov
Term Expires: June 2007

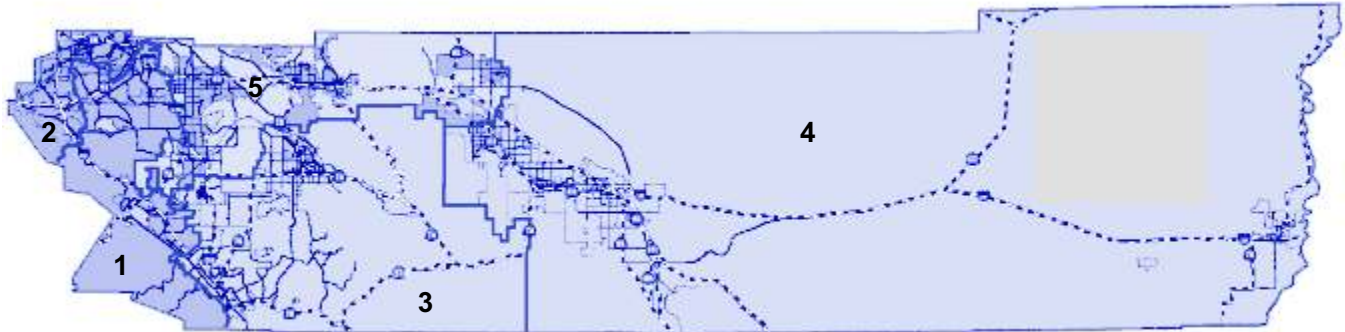
Address for Mayor & City Council
 3900 Main Street, 7th Floor
 Riverside, CA 92522
Phone: (951) 826-5553
Fax: (951) 826-2448
E-Mail: 1council@riversideca.gov

City Manager
Brad Hudson
Phone: (951) 826-5553
Fax: (951) 826-5470
E-Mail: bhudson@riversideca.gov

Riverside County Supervisor District Information

County of Riverside Population: 1,953,330

1. Buster
2. Tavaglione
3. Stone
4. Wilson
5. Ashley



District 1: The First District includes areas within the City of Riverside (the La Sierra and Arlington communities), as well as the city of Lake Elsinore. The District also comprises unincorporated communities including Lakeland Village, Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Wildomar and Santa Rosa Rancho, as well as portions of Gavilan hills and Woodcrest.

District 2: The Second Supervisorial District includes the cities of Corona and Norco; approximately 1/3 of the City of Riverside, including the Magnolia Center and Municipal Airport areas, Casa Blanca, and the Eastside Community. Unincorporated communities within the 2nd Supervisorial District include the Jurupa Valley (Rubidoux, Glen Avon, Sunnyslope, Pedley, Mira Loma); and Home Gardens, El Cerrito, Coronita, and Green River.

District 3: The Third District include the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Canyon Lake, Hemet and San Jacinto and the unincorporated areas of Anza, Aguanga, Idylwild, Menifee Valley, Pinyon Pines, Valle Vista, Winchester and Wine Country.

District 4: The Fourth District is geographically the largest by far, covering the eastern two-thirds of the County. Within the Fourth District are the cities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio, Coachella and Blythe. Unincorporated communities include Bermuda Dunes, Sun City Palm Desert, Thousand Palms, Sky Valley, Host Springs, Indio Hills, Mecca, Thermal, Oasis, Vista Santa Rosa, North Shore, Chiriaco Summit, Desert Center, Lake Tamarisk, Mesa Verde, Ripley and the Colorado River Communities.

District 5: The Fifth District includes the cities of Moreno Valley, Perris, Calimesa, Beaumont, Banning, Desert Hot Springs and northern Palm Springs. Unincorporated areas include Nuevo, Lakeview, Juniper Flats, Meadowbrook, Good Hope, a portion of Mead Valley, Romoland, Homeland, Green Acres, Highgrove, Box Springs, Pigeon Pass, Reche Canyon, San Timoteo Canyon, Oak Valley, Cherry Valley, Banning Bench, Cabazon, Palm Springs Village and Palm Springs West. The District also includes the Tribal Governments from the Sovereign Nations of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuila Indians as well as a portion of March Air Reserve Base.

Riverside County Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the County, certain special districts and the Housing Authority. The Board enacts ordinances and resolutions, adopts the annual budget, approves contracts, appropriates funds, determines land use zoning for the unincorporated area, appoints certain County officers and members of various boards and commissions.

Meeting Schedule: Board of Supervisors meeting are held most Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in the Board Chambers on the first floor at 4080 Lemon Street in Riverside.

Riverside County Website: www.countyofriverside.us



District 1
Bob Buster
 Phone: (951) 955-1010
 Fax: (951) 955-1019
 E-Mail: district1@rcbos.org



District 2
John Tavaglione
Chairman
 Phone: (951) 955-1020
 Fax: (951) 955-2362
 E-Mail: district2@rcbos.org



District 3
Jeff Stone
 Phone: (951) 955-1030
 Fax: (951) 955-2362
 E-Mail: district3@rcbos.org



District 4
Roy Wilson
 Phone: (951) 955-1040
 Fax: (951) 955-2362
 E-Mail: district4@rcbos.org



District 5
Marion Ashley
 Phone: (951) 955-1050
 Fax: (951) 955-2362
 E-Mail: district5@rcbos.org

County Executive Officer
Larry Parish
 Phone: (951) 955-1100
 E-Mail: lparrish@rceo.org

Forward All Written Communication to:
 County Administrative Center
 4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
 Riverside, CA 92501

Public Information Officer
Ray Smith
 Phone: (951) 955-1111
 E-Mail: raysmith@rceo.org

California Constitutional/Statewide Officers



Governor
Arnold Schwarzenegger (R)
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841



Lieutenant Governor
John Garamendi (D)
State Capitol, Room 1114
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-8994



Attorney General
Jerry Brown (D)
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-5437



Secretary of State
Debra Bowen (D)
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-6814



Treasurer
Bill Lockyer (D)
915 Capitol Mall, Room 110
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-2995



Controller
John Chiang (D)
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2636



Insurance Commissioner
Steve Poizner (R)
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1700
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 492-3500



Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jack O'Connell (D)
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 319-0800



Board of Equalization - District 1
Betty T. Yee (D)
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10500
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-3000



Board of Equalization - District 2
Bill Leonard (R)
4295 Jurupa Street, Suite 204
Ontario, CA 91761
(909) 937-6106



Board of Equalization - District 3
Michelle Steel (R)
450 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-5713



Board of Equalization - District 4
Judy Chu (D)
450 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-4154

Riverside's State Legislative Delegation

Assembly District 63



Assemblyman Bill Emmerson (R)

Serving Rancho Cucamonga, Upland, Redlands, San Bernardino, Highland, Loma Linda, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Yucaipa, Moreno Valley, Riverside

Capitol Office

Chief of Staff: Joe Justin
State Capitol, Room 4158
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-2063
Fax: (916) 319-2163

District Office

District Director: Nan Rider
10681 Foothill Blvd., Suite 325
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
Phone: (909) 466-9096
Fax: (909) 466-9892

E-Mail: assemblymember.emmerson@assembly.ca.gov

Committee Memberships: Appropriations; Business and Professions (Vice-Chair); Health

Assembly District 66



Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries (R)

Serving Riverside, Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore

Capitol Office

District Director: Craig DeLuz
State Capitol, Room 5128
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-2066
Fax: (916) 319-2166

District Office

Chief of Staff: Jeff Greene
41391 Kalmia Street, Suite 220
Murrieta, CA 92562
Phone: (951) 894-1232
Fax: (951) 894-5053

E-Mail: assemblymember.jeffries@assembly.ca.gov

Committee Memberships: Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials; Governmental Organization; Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security (Vice-Chair)

Assembly District 64



Assemblyman John Benoit (R)

Serving Riverside, Moreno Valley, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Canyon Lake, Temecula, Indian Wells, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta

Capitol Office

Capitol Director: David Duran
State Capitol Building, Room 4144
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2064
Fax: (916) 319-2164

District Office

Chief of Staff: Barry Nestande
1223 University Avenue, Suite 230
Riverside, CA 92507
Phone: (951) 369-6644
Fax: (951) 369-0366

E-Mail: assemblymemb.r.benoit@assembly.ca.gov

Committee Memberships: Budget; Insurance (Vice-Chair); Rules

Senate District 31



Senator Bob Dutton (R)

Serving Riverside, Glen Avon, Highgrove, Mira Loma, Pedley, Rubidoux, Sunnyslope, Big Bear, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Upland, Yucaipa, Yucca Valley, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead, Mentone, Running Springs, Antonio Heights.

Capitol Office

Chief of Staff: Russell Lowery
State Capitol Building, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4031
Fax: (916) 327-2272

District Office

District Coordinator: Joani Finwall
8577 Haven Avenue, Suite 210
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
Phone: (909) 466-4180
Fax: (909) 466-4185

E-Mail: senator.dutton@sen.ca.gov

Committee Memberships: Energy, Utilities and Communications (Vice-Chair); Rules; Transportation and Housing; Budget and Fiscal Review; Appropriations

Riverside's Federal Legislative Delegation

Congressional District 44 (R)

Ken Calvert



Proudly serving the following Riverside County incorporated cities: Riverside, Corona and Norco, in addition to the unincorporated areas of El Cerrito, Glen Avon, High Grove, Home Gardens, Mira Loma, Pedley, Rubidoux, Sunnyslope and Woodcrest.

Capitol Office

Chief of Staff: Dave Ramey
2201 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-1986
Fax: (202) 225-2004

District Office

District Director: Jolyn Murphy
3400 Central Ave., Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92506
Phone: (951) 784-4300
Fax: (951) 784-5255

E-Mail/Website: <http://calvert.house.gov/>

Committee Memberships: Science; Armed Services; Resources

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D)



Capitol Office

Chief of Staff: Laura Schiller
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3553

District Office (serves the Inland Empire)

District Director: Alton Garrett
201 North 'E' Street, Suite 210
San Bernardino, CA 92401
Phone: (909) 888-8525
Fax: (909) 888-8613

E-Mail/Website: <http://boxer.senate.gov/>

Committee Memberships: Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Environment and Public Works (Chair); Foreign Relations

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D)



Capitol Office

331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Chief of Staff: Peter Cleveland
Phone: (202) 224-3841
Fax: (202) 228-39543

District Office (serves the Inland Empire)

District Director: James Peterson
750 'B' Street, Suite 1030
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: (619) 231-9712
Fax: (619) 231-1108

E-Mail/Website: <http://feinstein.senate.gov/>

Committee Memberships: Appropriations; Judiciary; Rules and Administration; (Chair); Intelligence.

Calendar of Legislative Programs

Go online at www.riverside-chamber.com to view and register for upcoming legislative programs. Below are some key programs you won't want to miss:

Program Highlights

Capitol Connection

Hosted in conjunction with the California Chamber of Commerce, this annual advocacy trip to our state capitol gives business leaders the opportunity to meet with peers and state policy experts to advocate for priority legislative issues facing California business. The goal of the lobbying trip is not only to keep our State's delegation informed on priority items, presenting the business perspective on policy issues affecting a business's bottom line, but to give attendees the information they need to be an active player in the legislative process.

Legislative Summit

Held annually, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Legislative Summit gives business owners and leaders the opportunity to interact with high-level government officials and legislators, and gain insight into what is happening at the state level. The jam-packed event features the accomplishments of the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Council, a review of the upcoming election ballot propositions, and a distinguished keynote speaker. Past year's speakers include California Chamber of Commerce President Allan Zaremborg, and former Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Legislative Roundtables

This luncheon gives members the opportunity to meet with legislators, and other elected officials to find out how state policies affect their businesses. Previous speakers include Senator Bob Dutton, Assemblyman John Benoit, and former-Assemblyman Russ Bogh. Opportunities to become a 'Roundtable Host' are also available.

Candidate Forums

The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce believes that an informed electorate is a critical component for a viable democracy. It is the Chamber's duty to keep the community informed about the candidates and issues affecting our region. The format of the Candidate Forums are as follows: Each candidate will be given three minutes for an opening statement, followed by a series of pre-composed questions. The candidates are given a brief time to address the questions, and the forum concludes with closing statements.

Candidate Academy

This four-week, one-night per week training seminar was designed to educate and prepare citizens interested in running for public office. The program features a distinguished speaker lineup to discuss topics such as what to expect when running for office, campaign management, marketing, public relations, as well as significant issues facing the region. The Candidate Academy is open to the public. Interested parties must submit a program application to be considered.

Mayor's State of the City Address

Both the City of Riverside and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce organize this milestone event. Highlights of the event include a video that illustrates the status of the city, the annual Hero Award presentation and an address by Riverside Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge. In addition to the Mayor's address, Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful will announce the Beautification Award winners. This luncheon is one of Riverside's most important and largest events. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Please contact the Chamber at (951) 683-7100 for more information, or for an exact listing of dates/times.



RESOURCES

Research Resources

Here you will find a valuable collection of legislative resources to answer your most frequently asked questions. Use these resources when researching proposed legislation, including analyses and verbatim text of bills, in both their introduced and amended forms. Read and act on the legislation and regulations where you can make a difference. The answers are here -- consider yourself well-connected.

Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce: www.riverside-chamber.com

City of Riverside: www.riversideca.gov

County of Riverside: www.co.riverside.ca.us

County of Riverside Registrar of Voters: www.countyofriverside.us

Western Riverside Council of Governments: www.wrcog.cog.ca.us

Southern California Association of Governments: www.scag.ca.gov

League of California Cities: www.cacities.org

State of California: www.ca.gov

California State Assembly: www.assembly.ca.gov

California Chamber of Commerce: www.calchamber.com

California Legislative Counsel (Legislative Information): www.leginfo.ca.gov

California Legislative Analyst's Office: www.lao.ca.gov

California Secretary of State: www.ss.ca.gov

California State Senate: www.senate.ca.gov

U.S. White House: www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. Chamber of Commerce: www.uschamber.com

U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov

U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov

Federal Election Commission: www.fec.gov

The Legislative Process

The California State Legislature is a bicameral body consisting of the lower house California State Assembly, with 80 members, and the upper house California State Senate, with 40 members. Members of the Assembly are elected from eighty districts, serve two-year terms, and since 1990 are limited to being elected three times. Members of the Senate serve four-year terms and are limited to being elected twice. There are forty Senate districts, with half of their seats up for election on alternate (two year) election cycles. Regular sessions convene on the first Monday in December of each even-numbered year and continue until November 30 of the next even-numbered year. Special sessions may be called by the Governor and are limited to a specific subject. Length is not limited and may be held concurrently with the regular session. New laws are effective on January 1 of the year after enactment.

Procedure

- **Introduction:** The bill is introduced by a member of the Senate or Assembly, read for the first time, then assigned to a committee by either the Senate Rules Committee or the Assembly Speaker.
- **Committee:** Hearing(s) are held in committee and testimony is taken from proponents and opponents. Generally, the committee will then amend, pass or fail to pass the bill.
- **Second Reading:** Bills that are passed by committee are read a second time and sent to the full floor for debate.
- **Floor Debate**(in house origin): The bill is read a third time, debated and voted on. Most bills need a majority to pass (21 for the Senate, 41 for the Assembly). Bills with urgency clauses, appropriated measures and some tax-related bills need a two-thirds majority (27 for the Senate, 54 for the Assembly). If the bill is passed, it is sent to the second house.
- **Second House:** Procedures for a bill to pass the second house are similar to consideration and passage in the house of origin.
- **Amendments:** If the second house passes a bill with amendments, then the bill must be passed a second time by the house of origin for concurrence. If the amendments are rejected, a conference committee is formed to iron out the differences between the two houses.
- **Governor:** The Governor must act on (sign or veto) any bill that passes the Legislature within 12 days during the legislative session. However, the Governor has 30 days in which to act at the end of the biennium. Bills not acted on by the Governor automatically become law. A two-thirds vote of the Legislature is required to override a Governor's veto.

Guide to Reading a Bill

Indicates house of origin.

Date introduced.

Legislative Counsel drafts all legislation and writes a summary.

Date noted each time bill is amended.

Bills are introduced in sequential number in each house.

Code section being added or amended.

Strikethrough text indicates language that is being deleted; italics highlight language that is being added by an amendment.

The actual language that will be a part of the state code when the bill is enacted into law appears following the line: "The people of the State of California do enact as follows."

Contacting Your Legislators: Protocol

California state senators and Assembly members want to hear from their constituents — you — the voters in their districts. At times your association may call on you to do some grassroots lobbying. Often, the contact from a district constituent can sway a legislator's vote.

Here are some guidelines for you to follow in contacting your legislators in person, by phone or by letter.

- **Be thoughtful.** Commend the right things which your legislator does. That's the way you'd like to be treated.
- **Be reasonable.** Recognize that there are legitimate differences of opinion. Never indulge in threats or recriminations.
- **Be realistic.** Remember that most controversial legislation is the result of compromise. Don't expect that everything will go your way, and don't be too critical when it doesn't.
- **Be accurate and factual.** The mere fact that you want or do not want a piece of legislation isn't enough. If an issue goes against you, don't rush to blame the legislator for "failing to do what you wanted." Make certain you have the necessary information and do a good job of presenting your case.
- **Be understanding.** Put yourself in a legislator's place. Try to understand his/her problems, outlook and aims. Then you are more likely to help him/her understand your business and problems.
- **Be friendly.** Don't contact your legislator only when you want his/her vote. Invite him/her to your place of business or your group meetings. Take pains to keep in touch with him/her throughout the year.
- **Give credit where it is due.** If an issue goes the way you wanted, remember that your legislator deserves first credit. He/she has the vote, not you. And, remember also that many organizations and individuals participated on your side.
- **Learn to evaluate issues.** The introduction of a legislative bill doesn't mean that it will become law. Whether you're for it or against it, don't get excited about it until you learn the who, what and why of it.
- **Support your legislator.** If he/she is running for re-election and if you believe he/she deserves it, give him/her your support. He/she needs workers and financial supporters. Don't become aloof at the time when your legislator needs your help.
- **Don't, don't, don't** even hint that you think certain bills, campaigns or

politics in general are not worthwhile or may be dishonest.

- **Don't demand anything.** And don't be rude or threatening. There is always "the future," and in many cases a legislator may disagree with you on one issue and be supportive on another.
- **Don't be vague or deceptive,** righteous or long-winded, and please don't remind the legislator that you are a taxpayer and voter in his/her district. (He/she knows it!)
- **Don't be an extremist.** Remember, your legislator represents all his/her constituents — those you consider liberal and those you consider conservative. Don't condemn a legislator just because he/she supports a piece of legislation that you think is too liberal or too conservative.
- **Don't be a busybody.** Legislators don't like to be pestered, scolded or preached to. Neither do you.
- **Be cooperative.** If your legislator makes a reasonable request, try to comply with it. You can help him/her by giving him/her the information he/she needs. Don't back away for fear you are "getting into politics."

Letter Writing

Following are guidelines for an effective letter:

- Be brief.
- Make sure the legislator knows this communication is from a constituent who lives and/or does business in the legislator's district.
- Explain how the proposed legislation affects your business, and why you support/oppose it.
- Don't attempt to give "expert" opinions. Tell how the legislation would affect your business, based on your experience and knowledge.
- Refer to bill numbers whenever possible.
- Ask for the legislator's support or opposition.
- Write the letter without copying any association-provided background information verbatim.
- Request that your legislator take a specific action by telling him/her what you desire. State the facts as you see them. Avoid emotional arguments. If you use dollar figures, be realistic.
- Ask the legislator what his/her position is.
- Keep all communications friendly and respectful. Be sure to thank your legislator for considering your views.
- Write on your personal or business letterhead if possible, and sign your name over your typed signature at the end of your message.

- Be sure your exact return address is on the letter, not just the envelope. Envelopes sometimes get thrown away before the letter is answered.
- Be reasonable. Don't ask for the impossible. Don't threaten. Don't say, "I'll never vote for you unless you do such and such." That will not help your cause; it may even harm it.
- Be constructive. If a bill deals with a problem you admit exists, but you believe the bill is the wrong approach, tell what the right approach is.
- Send your association a copy of your letter and a copy of the response you receive from your legislator.
- Address all letters in the following manner, unless you are on a first name basis:

State Legislature:

- Assembly Member

The Honorable Joe/Jo Doe
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblyman/Assemblywoman Doe:

- Senator

The Honorable Joe/Jo Doe
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Doe:

Local Elected Officials:

- Council Member

The Honorable Joe/Jo Doe
Councilman/woman,
City of —
City Hall
City, State and Zip Code

Dear Mr./Ms./Mrs./Miss Doe:

- County Supervisor

The Honorable Joe/Jo Doe
Supervisor, — County
County Seat
City, State and Zip Code

Dear Sir/Madam:

or

Dear Mr./Ms./Mrs./Miss Doe:

How to Write an Effective Lobbying Letter

Address lobbying correspondence to the author of the bill with copies to members of the committee hearing the bill and to your local legislator.

Indicate immediately which bill you're addressing by its bill number (AB ___ if it originates in the Assembly, SB ___ if it originates in the Senate), by an identifying phrase and whether you support or oppose the bill. This will help legislative staff in routing your letter.

Be sure to make clear for whom you're speaking.

Be sure to be clear about what action you want the legislator to take.

If you have a personal relationship with the legislator, take a moment to write a quick, handwritten note to draw his or her attention to your letter.

Be sure to send a copy of your letter to the Governor. Also please send a copy to the CalChamber staff members assigned to the bill so they can include information on your support or opposition in their committee testimony.

Use your business letterhead when communicating your position on a bill.



June 15, 2006

The Honorable Wilma Chan
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1177 (CHAN): TAXATION: PERSONAL INCOME TAX: RATES: EDUCATION FINANCE
OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Chan:

We must **OPPOSE AB 1177 (Chan)**, as amended May 23, 2006, which increases the personal income tax rates to 10 and 11 percent and the alternative minimum tax rate to 8.5 percent, from the current 9.3 percent and 7 percent rates, respectively. The revenues generated from the tax increase will fund education.

AB 1177 (Chan) unfairly targets a narrow segment of the population in order to fund education at the K-12 and community college levels. Public education broadly benefits the broad population; therefore, the broad population should shoulder the costs.

Moreover, the tax increase on higher income tax brackets proposed by **AB 1177 (Chan)** will hit California's small and medium sized businesses especially hard, as many of them report their income and pay their tax liability on personal income tax returns. This will be a direct increase in costs to these businesses.

For these and other reasons we **OPPOSE AB 1177 (Chan)**.

Sincerely,

Kyla Christoffersen
Policy Advocate

1135 K Street, Suite 1400
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-6370
www.calchamber.com

Keep your letter short. A succinct, one-page letter will have more impact than a longer one. If you have documentation of the bill's impact on your business, enclose it, but keep the letter short.

In many committees, staff members file correspondence according to the date of the bill's next hearing. If you know the date, be sure to include it. Including such information will help ensure your letter is read in time to have an impact.

Get to the point of your letter quickly: your support for or opposition to the bill.

Provide concrete, credible information on the impact of proposed legislation on your business.

Elected officials prefer to hear from persons in authority rather than just from staff members. A letter will have more impact if the business owner or person in a management position signs the letter.

Use boldface type, underlining or italics sparingly to emphasize important points.

Act promptly. Too many good lobbying letters arrive after a vote already has been taken.

Later . . . If the legislator does what you ask, be sure to send a thank you letter.

Guidelines for Political Communications to Employees

Informing your employees and stockholders about the impact of proposed state legislation, regulations and ballot measures is within your rights as a business owner.

Just remember to do it the right way.

The dilemma: You know that pending state legislation, a proposed regulation or a ballot measure will have a huge impact on your business, either directly because it affects your company/industry, or indirectly because of its impact on the jobs climate and economy. You'd like to let your employees know about your concerns - but can you?

The answer is yes - IF you keep in mind and follow some "dos and don'ts" outlined in state law or regulations. Following is a quick overview, including actions to avoid.



You CAN

- Communicate with your employees, stockholders and their families about the company's support of or opposition to state legislation, regulations or ballot measures.
- Encourage your employees, stockholders and their families to support or oppose state legislation, regulations or ballot measures.
- Communicate your political messages to your own employees (and their families) through such means as:
 - ✓ internal mail systems (separate from payroll distribution);
 - ✓ e-mail systems;
 - ✓ regular mail;
 - ✓ bulletin boards;
 - ✓ phone bank messages; or
 - ✓ employee meetings.
- Inform employees, stockholder and their families about the effect of state legislation, regulations and ballot measures on the company, its employees and stockholders.

You CANNOT

- Control or direct the political activities of your employees "through or by means of threat of discharge or loss of employment."
- Coerce your employees to support or oppose a ballot measure.
- Reward or punish employees for their political activities or beliefs (or threaten to do so).
- Put any political messages in or on employees' payroll envelopes.
NO PAYCHECK STUFFERS.

When to Report What You Spend as Contributions or Lobbying

You NEED NOT REPORT

- What you spend for *internal communications* to your employees, stockholders and their families about your support of or opposition to *state ballot measures*.
- The cost for an employee who spends *less than 10 percent of his/her paid time per month* (the equivalent of one day every two weeks) on the company's political communications program including communications relating to proposed state legislation, regulations and ballot measures.
- What you spend for communications about proposed state legislation/regulations, if you are not a California lobbyist employer, and you spend *less than \$5,000 in a calendar quarter* to communicate with your employees or stockholders about your company's support for or opposition to state legislation or regulation (legislative and regulatory advocacy or "lobbying") or to make other lobbying expenditures. (This does *not* include ballot measure expenditures.)

You MUST REPORT

- Any communications to *external audiences* about the company's positions on state ballot measures. These expenses must be reported as either an "in-kind" contribution or an independent expenditure.

External audiences are those outside of employees, stockholders and their families. For example:

- ✓ non-stockholder retirees
- ✓ outside vendors
- ✓ customers
- ✓ passersby

Examples of communications that speak to external audiences:

- ✓ window signs
- ✓ billboards

- If the cumulative total of your political contributions (monetary and non-monetary combined) is *\$10,000 or more in a calendar year*.

The \$10,000 threshold is the combined total of your monetary/non-monetary contributions to:

- ✓ State ballot measures
- ✓ Local ballot measures
- ✓ Candidates
- ✓ Political action committees (PACs)
- ✓ Political parties

(The report is FPPC Form 461 for "Major Donors.")

Note: There is no campaign contribution limit for monetary and non-monetary contributions to ballot measure committees. The contribution is simply subject to reporting, as outlined above.

- Expense of communications about proposed state legislation/regulations
 - ✓ If you are a "state lobbyist employer" OR
 - ✓ You spend *\$5,000 or more in a calendar quarter* to communicate with your employees or stockholders about your company's support for or opposition to state legislation or regulation (legislative and regulatory advocacy or "lobbying") or to make other lobbying expenditures. (This does *not* include ballot measure expenditures.)

Note: Non-lobbyist employers that spend \$5,000 or more in a quarter must file a simple Form 645 for that quarter, available from the fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

- This covers expenses such as:
 - ✓ the costs of mailing (for example, printing and postage)
 - ✓ a telephone bank
 - ✓ the salaries of employees who spend 10 percent or more of their compensated time per month (that is, one full day every two weeks) working on the lobby components of your political communications program.

California Government Glossary

Legislature

The two "houses" that pass or reject proposed new laws.

- Assembly: 80-member lower house of the Legislature. Its members serve two-year terms. 80 members are elected every two years.
- Senate: 40-member upper house of the Legislature. Its members serve four-year terms. 20 members are elected every two years.

Legislation

- Bill: A proposed law or statute that amends or repeals existing laws or proposes new laws. Most bills require a majority vote. If there is a fiscal impact, a bill requires a two-thirds vote.
 - ✓ AB 0000 - Assembly Bill
 - ✓ SB 0000 - Senate Bill
- Constitutional Amendment: A proposed change in the state Constitution, which, after approval of two-thirds of the legislators, is submitted to the voters.
 - ✓ ACA 0000 - Assembly (authored) Constitutional Amendment.
 - ✓ SCA 0000 - Senate (authored) Constitutional Amendment.
- Concurrent Resolution : A legislative proposal that commends individuals or groups, adopts legislative rules or establishes joint committees.
 - ✓ ACR 0000 - Assembly Concurrent Resolution.
 - ✓ SCR 0000 - Senate Concurrent Resolution.
- Joint Resolution: A legislative opinion on matters pertaining to the federal government, often urging passage or defeat of legislation pending before Congress.
 - ✓ AJR 0000 - Assembly Joint Resolution.
 - ✓ SJR 0000 - Senate Joint Resolution.
- Assembly and Senate Resolutions: An expression of sentiment of one house of the Legislature. Resolutions usually ask a committee to study a specific problem, create interim committees or amend house rules. Resolutions take effect upon adoption.
 - ✓ AR 0000 - Assembly Resolution.
 - ✓ SR 0000 - Senate Resolution.
- Spot Bill: Bill introduced that usually makes non-substantive changes in a law. The spot bill is substantially amended at a later date. This procedure evades the deadline for the introduction of bills.

Legislative Process

- Legislative Counsel: A staff of more than 60 attorneys who draft legislation (bills) and proposed amendments, review, analyze and render opinions on legal matters of concern to the Legislature. The Legislative Counsel's Digest is a summary of a bill's content contrasting existing law with proposed law (in lay language) and appears on the face of each bill.
- Legislative Analyst: Provides advice to the Legislature on anything with a fiscal implication, which can cover virtually every major bill. The analyst annually publishes a detailed analysis of the Governor's budget, which becomes the basis for legislative hearings on the fiscal program.
- Author: State senator or Assembly member who submits or introduces a bill and carries it through the legislative process.
- Floor Manager: Speaks as author when the bill is being heard in the second house. (Assembly members are not allowed to present bills on the Senate floor and vice versa.)
- Sponsor: Interest groups or constituents from the legislator's district who bring suggested legislation to the attention of the prospective author (legislator).
- Standing Committee: The forum used in the Senate and Assembly for studying bills and hearing testimony from the author, proponents and opponents.
 - ✓ Many bills are heard by two or more committees in each house.
 - ✓ If a majority of the committee members approve the bill, it is sent to the floor (or, if it has fiscal impact, to another committee) with a recommendation "Do Pass." It takes a majority vote of committee members present to amend a bill.
 - ✓ Your association's legislative advocate and other members often testify before such committees.
- Committee Consultants and Aides: Every legislator has a personal staff plus the assistance of specialists assigned to committees and to the party caucuses. This research staff is responsible for analyzing the pros and cons of the proposed legislation.
- Introduction and First Reading: Bill is submitted by senator or Assembly member, numbered and read. It is assigned to a committee by the Senate Rules Committee or Assembly Speaker and printed.
- Second Reading: When the bill passes out of its committee, it is read on the house floor for a second time.

- Third Reading: Bill is read a third time and debated. A roll call vote follows. If passed or passed with amendments, the bill is sent to the second house (or, if it already is in the second house, it is returned to the house of origin for consideration of amendments).
- Enrollment: Legislation that has passed both houses is sent to enrollment for proofreading for consistency before being sent to the Governor for approval.
- Item Veto: Allows the Governor to veto (return unsigned a legislative proposal or indicate points of disagreement) objectionable parts of a bill without rejecting bills in their entirety.
- Chaptered: A bill that has passed both houses and has been signed by the Governor is said to be "chaptered." The bill becomes law January 1 of the following year unless it contains an urgency clause (takes effect immediately) or specifies its effective date.
- Sunset Clause: Acts of the state Legislature that expire after a certain date unless renewed by the Legislature.

Voter Responses

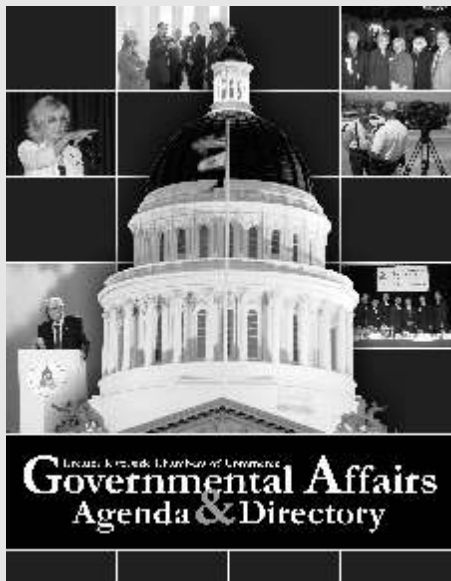
In recent years there has been a renewal of interest in the techniques of direct democracy, whereby citizens are able to bypass elected government bodies and act directly on policy matters.

- Initiative: A local or state measure that is placed on the ballot after a certain number of registered voters sign petitions supporting its placement on the ballot. Initiatives often are used by groups or individuals when the Legislature fails to pass a law they want to enact.
- Referendum: A procedure whereby the voters may approve or disapprove proposals recommended by a legislative body, such as a proposal for an increase in the tax rate.
- Recall: A procedure whereby petitions are circulated calling for removal of a public official from office. If a sufficient number of signatures is obtained, an election is held in which voters decide whether to keep the official in office.
- PAC: A Political Action Committee is a non-profit committee that provides a lawful means to help elect and re-elect political candidates selected on the basis of their positions on industry-related issues, committee assignments and leadership in the Legislature. PACs make contributions to candidates or in support of or opposition to ballot measures.

Text in this section adapted from the California Grocers Association publication "Your Guide to the California State Legislature."

California 2007-2008 Regular Session

Dec. 04	Convening of the 2007-08 Regular Session (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
Jan. 03	Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
Jan. 10	Budget Bill must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
Jan. 26	Last day to submit bill requests to Office of Legislative Counsel.
Feb. 23	Last day for bills to be introduced (J.R. 61(a)(1), J.R. 54(a)).
Mar. 29	Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
Apr. 09	Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
Apr. 27	Last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills for referral to fiscal committees (J.R. 61(a)(2)).
May 11	Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the floor non-fiscal bills (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
May 25	Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 11 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
Jun. 01	Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(5)). Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 11 (J.R. 61(a)(6)).
Jun. 04- Jun. 08	Floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(7)).
Jun. 08	Last day to pass bills out of house of origin (J.R. 61(a)(8)).
Jun. 11	Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).
Jun. 15	Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (c)).
Jul. 13	Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(10)).
Jul. 20	Summer Recess begins on adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 50(a)(3)).
Aug. 20	Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess (J.R. 51(a)(3)).
Aug. 31	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(11)).
Sep. 03- Sep. 14	Floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(12)).
Sep. 07	Last day to amend on the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(13)).
Sep. 14	Last day for any bill to be passed (J.R. 61(a)(14)). Interim recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
Oct. 14	Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 14 and in the Governor's possession after Sept. 14 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(1)).
Jan. 01	Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
Jan. 07	Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).



Taking Political Action... Representing the Interests of Business with Government...

The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce **Government Affairs Agenda & Directory** will reach more than 2,500 members, government affairs professionals, legislators, and the general public. The guide outlines the Chamber's positions on issue of importance to the business community, information on the legislative process, and a directory of elected officials.

Contact the Chamber to order additional copies of this guide or for more information on supporting the Chamber's advocacy efforts by becoming a sponsor.

Agenda & Directory Pricing*

1st copy.....	Free (for members)
1-5 additional copies.....	\$3.50 each
6-10.....	\$2.80 each
11-49.....	\$2.15 each

*Excludes the price of shipping.

The Chamber is...

The Voice of Business: The Chamber, established in 1900, is the voice of business in Riverside, speaking on behalf of nearly 1700 member firms, which employs more than 93,000 people. As appropriate, the Chamber establishes partnerships with other chambers and organizations. The Chamber focuses on creating a stronger local economy, promoting the community, representing the interests of business with government, creating networking opportunities, and taking political action.

An Enlightened Business Leadership: The Chamber represents an enlightened business leadership, which recognizes the best interests of the business community are the same as the long-term best interests of the community at large. As a result, the Chamber strives to support initiatives that lead to a prosperous and quality future for Riverside.

A Leader in Business Retention and Expansion: The Chamber is the initial point of contact for the community's efforts in retention and expansion of existing businesses. The Chamber works with existing businesses to reduce bureaucratic regulations and other obstacles to economic expansion.

Privately Financed: The Chamber is financed through its members' dues investments and non-dues income programs. The Chambers' staff works with an active volunteer corps whose contributions of time, energy and ideas make the Chamber one of the most effective business organizations in the state.

Creating Synergy: The Chamber collaborates frequently with city government in economic development and other areas to improve the business environment and quality of life in Riverside.

For more information about membership benefits visit our website at www.riverside-chamber.com.



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