



2017 Legislative Agenda

*Approved by the Board of Directors
January 10th, 2017*

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President/CEO Message

January 19, 2017

Dear Chamber Member:

The Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce prides itself upon being a 5-star accredited Chamber, as certified by the United States Chamber of Commerce. This is a prestigious honor that is only received by 1 percent of Chambers of Commerce nationwide.

One of the main criteria to be an accredited Chamber of Commerce is to be involved in Government Affairs and Political Action. This document, the Chamber's Legislative Agenda, is the roadmap for our political and government affairs strategy. It outlines what we believe, who the representatives are we communicate those beliefs to, and by what methods we plan to communicate those beliefs.

This document is approved annually by the Board of Directors to give staff the guidance they need to advocate on your behalf with our local, state and federal officials. Please take the time to read through the following plan to learn about the Chamber's political plan for 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Lederer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" and last name "Lederer" clearly legible.

Jill Lederer, MBA ACE
President/CEO
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors

The Board of the Directors of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce is made up of Chamber members, who comprise the leadership of businesses from the cities of Agoura Hills, Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village. They are elected by the membership of the Chamber annually to represent the interests of the entire membership.

Executive Committee



Chair
Angel Robertson
General Manager
Skyline Home Loans



Jill Lederer
President / CEO
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of
Commerce



Chair Emeritus
Matt Midura
Associate Vice President for
Integrated Marketing and
Communications
Pepperdine University



Chair-Elect
Chris Shaver
Vice President
Shaver Automotive Group



Secretary
Lisa Shaw
V.P. Publishing & Professional
Learning
Corwin, A SAGE Company



Treasurer
Lisa Safaeinili
Executive Director,
Westminster Free Clinic



Director at Large
Dr. Chris Kimball
President
California Lutheran University



Don Phillipson
CEO
WSI ePro Marketing



Frank Bellinghiere
Attorney
Law Offices of Frank Bellinghiere



Dr. Ann Bonitatibus
Superintendent
Conejo Valley Unified School
District



Tom Cohen
Cohen Begun & Deck, LLP



Vincent Bucci
General Manager
Hyatt Regency Westlake



Lydia Derian
Luxury Brand Consultant



Kristen Davis
Sr. Manager, Corporate
Communications
Amgen Inc.



Felix Wang
General Manager
Best Western Thousand Oaks Inn



Linda Donner
Administrator
Kaiser Permanente



Scott Harris
President
Mustang Marketing



Dr. Hannah Grossman
Chief Medical Officer
Los Robles Hospital & Medical
Center



Jack Lyons
Director of Individual and Small
Group Sales
Anthem Blue Cross



Javier LaFianza
CEO
Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership



Alex Mallen
Business Development
PGA Tour



Joseph Morris
Owner/Operator
Chic-fil-A Thousand Oaks



Vijay Lala
SVP Home Loan Manager
Bank of America



Michelle Menzel
Associate Director of Advancement
Oaks Christian School



Keith Sinclair
President / CEO
Sinclair Company



Elaine Salewske
Director of Sustainability
Shire



Kimberly Tharpe
Commerical Banking Relationship Manager
Community West Bank



Candice Shehorn
Founder
Key Pointe Coaching & Consulting, LLC



Natalie Yanez
Community Development Manager
Ventura County Credit Union



Aaron Spector
General Manager
The Oaks Shopping Center



Alex Lopez
Senior Human Resources Officer
Chatsworth Products, Inc



Kim Woods
Power Marketing Consulting



Ash Sobhe
CEO
R6S



Stephen Yeoh
President, MBA, PMP, MTC
Un1tee

Development Process

A thorough process has been established to draft and approve the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce 2017 Legislative Agenda.

Input from other organizations

Since the Chamber of Commerce by definition doesn't operate in a silo, and to ensure that our mission, where possible overlaps with the missions of our allied organizations, the Chamber of Commerce solicits input. There are many methods used to solicit input:

- Input from political science professionals (California Lutheran University, Pepperdine University, California State University Channel Islands)
- Input from local industry leaders (Valley Industry and Commerce Association, Workforce Investment Board, United Way of Ventura County, Thousand Oaks Boulevard Association, Ventura County Economic Development Association and Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County)
- Input from Chamber industry leaders (United States Chamber of Commerce, California Chamber of Commerce, Western Association of Chamber Executives, Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties)
- Input from Chamber Members (through survey)

Staff Development of Draft Plan

After receiving input from various stakeholders, the Chamber of Commerce staff, under the guidance of the President/CEO and the Chamber of Commerce Chair, develop the draft Legislative Agenda.

Approval by the Board of Directors

The Legislative Agenda is submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. This typically happens at the first board meeting of the calendar year. The Board of Directors reviews the Legislative Agenda, makes changes and approves the agenda.

This allows staff to communicate the position of the Chamber of Commerce to elected officials with the backing of the entire membership.

Distribution to Chamber Members, Elected Officials and the Public

After the final approval of the Legislative Agenda, the document is sent to all of the appropriate stakeholders including the following:

- It is posted on the Chamber's website at www.ConejoChamber.org
- It is sent in the Chamber's Weekly View email to the entire Chamber membership
- It is emailed and texted directly to local, state and federal elected officials
- It is sent to the local media via a press release
- It is posted on the Chamber's Social Media

Legislative Positions

These are the legislative positions of the members of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce. We will advocate in favor of these positions to promote and grow the 1,000 businesses in our membership and the tens of thousands of local residents who are employed by our members.

Local Government

Thousand Oaks Boulevard Specific Plan

We fully supported the approval of the Thousand Oaks Boulevard Specific Plan. Since its approval there have been no mixed used development housing units built in the area of the specific plan. We encourage the Thousand Oaks Planning Commission and City Council to approve using housing units available under Measure E for mixed use development in the area of the specific plan.

Business License Fees

We oppose any increases to the cost to obtain business licenses in our local cities.

State Government

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

We oppose use of CEQA to prevent reasonable development and oppose additional rules that increase the impact CEQA has upon future development.

Climate Change

We support a balanced approach to climate change; one in which government supports manufacturing while not needlessly harming the environment.

Education

We support developing strong local public schools that train students for the jobs of tomorrow. We do not support additional efforts to raise taxes for education at the state level, as this is more efficiently done at the local level.

Energy

We support an all of the above approach to energy production: one that includes traditional forms of energy production and renewables.

Health Care

We oppose legislation that will increase the direct costs or indirect costs to provide healthcare for the employees of our businesses. We believe current laws providing paid sick leave to employees is adequate.

Information Security

We support the ability of businesses to request information about their employees, applicants for employment and customers where appropriate for use in their business.

Internet/Communications Technology

We support providing resources and streamlining processes to improve our internet and data infrastructure.

Labor and Employment: Classifying Employees

We support allowing employers to hire independent contractors in lieu of employees when appropriate to allow small businesses to grow and larger businesses to hire for specific projects. We oppose efforts by labor unions and others to increase the number of employees who cannot be downsized at a business owner's discretion.

We oppose future increases in the minimum wage that will hinder businesses ability to maintain their operations or to expand.

Legal Reform

We support efforts to prevent lawsuit abuse, where lawyers and activist groups sue a business and request legal fees as part of a settlement. We oppose allowing lawsuits where there is no loss or victim. We support the use of arbitration to settle legal disputes.

Taxation: Tax Reform

We support efforts to distribute fairly the tax burden of the State of California. We oppose the extension of the Proposition 30 temporary taxes. We oppose a sales tax on services.

Taxation: Attacks on Proposition 13

We support Proposition 13 and oppose efforts to change the law, including the split-roll property tax.

Transportation

We support efforts to increase financing for transportation infrastructure at both the state and local level with an emphasis on the local level. Increases to state taxes are less likely to see benefit to 101 and 23 freeways in Conejo Valley.

Unemployment Insurance

We support the existing unemployment insurance program and its current rate levels. We do not support efforts to increase employer rates for unemployment insurance.

Workers' Compensation

We support efforts at the state level to meaningfully reform the Workers' Compensation program and to reduce the already high costs to employers.

Federal Government

Health Care (Affordable Care Act)

We oppose legislation that will increase the direct costs or indirect costs to provide healthcare for the employees of our businesses.

Immigration Reform

We support a comprehensive path to citizenship that will allow immigrants of all skill levels to meet the needs of the growing American workforce. We support having programs like E-Verify in place to ensure that employers do not knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

Regulation

We support efforts to reduce the amount of federal rules and regulations generated by federal agencies that hinder economic development.

Trade

We support efforts to make international trade easier for both importers and exporters of goods, including free trade agreements. We support the continued authorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Summary

As the voice of business for the cities of Agoura Hills, Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village, the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce intends to use both government affairs and political action to improve the business climate of the Conejo Valley.

Our Board of Directors, elected by the 1,000 members of our Chamber of Commerce, have approved this document to communicate the needs of our business community and have directed staff and the membership of the Chamber of Commerce to execute this plan.

Through collaboration with our local elected officials, whom we share a wonderful partnership, we intend to support legislation that benefits business and oppose legislation that will harm business.

Contact

For more information about the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda, contact Adam Haverstock, Director of Government Affairs & Tourism.

Adam Haverstock

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Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce*

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