VICA Supports Critical Transportation Investment Bills

The VICA Board voted to support AB 1 and SB 1, two state transportation funding packages which are similar in many ways. Local businesses and consumers rely on a fully operating, diverse transportation system to connect to goods and service providers. VICA has supported previous versions of these bills due the need to reinvest in our crumbling transportation infrastructure. The funding raised will place California at a competitive advantage against other states that don’t have funding plans for transportation infrastructure. These bills also reward cities and counties, like Los Angeles, that have passed transportation funding ballot measures. For more information and for a sample letter to email to your state legislators, email elizabeth@vica.com

Last Chance to Register!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017
5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at The Globe Theatre
Universal Studios Hollywood

Confirmed Speakers (As of 2/02/17)

Senators
Ben Allen
Ed Hernandez

Assemblomembers
Travis Allen
Raul Bocanegra

Statewide Offices
Board of Equalization
Chairwoman Fiona Ma

Board of Equalization
VICA shows support for safe reopening of Aliso Canyon

VICA President Stuart Waldman spoke in support of the safe reopening of the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility on Wednesday. From both a business and air quality perspective, keeping key parts of our energy infrastructure such as Aliso Canyon on-line is critical. A reliable energy supply is the foundation of our economy, and natural gas is a critical and affordable component of the energy supply. The public hearing was disrupted by raucous environmental groups and residents who would not allow any speakers in support of reopening the critical facility. The hearing was cut short due to the disorder.

Vote 'Yes' on Measure M: Cannabis Regulation, Taxation, and Enforcement Act

VICA supports Measure M, a ballot measure in the City of Los Angeles. This measure will provide effective regulation, enforcement, and oversight of cannabis-related businesses in the City of Los Angeles. This reform is more comprehensive than previous attempts to regulate dispensaries, including effective enforcement provisions. It is a balanced response to the passage of Prop 64 and the legalization of cannabis under California law. The passage of Measure M will bring the City of Los Angeles in line with state laws going into effect in January 2018. In addition, the revenue from the new business taxes will go towards the General Fund, which provides funding for important services. On March 7, vote Yes on Measure M.
Hot Issues

Street Vending
On Tuesday, the Los Angeles City Council voted to decriminalize and regulate street vending. The proposal authorized a draft of law to legalize street vending and gives the Board of Public Works the responsibility of issuing licenses to vendors.

Education
A report released by the state Legislative Analyst’s Office has laid out different ways the state could help students at the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges cover both tuition and living expenses.

Environment
Southern California Air quality regulators are looking to adopt a pollution-reduction plan that relies on voluntary measures from ports, warehouses and rail yards.

Healthcare
A California lawmaker has introduced a measure that would prohibit the use of coupons for medications when there are cheaper drugs available. Healthcare experts warn that such coupons could increase the cost to insurance plans and lead to higher premiums.

Friday, February 17
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
VICA Office

Join VICA for a special Newsmaker Connection as the top candidates running for Council District 7 gather to discuss issues affecting San Fernando Valley business community. This special Election Forum will provide members with the unique opportunity to meet, listen and speak with the CD7 contenders.

Confirmed Speakers as of 02/03/17

Monica Rodriguez
Karo Torossian

Committee Report

Education Committee (2/2)
Sponsored by Woodbury University

- Michael Yudin, The Raben Group, gave an update on Federal education issues and where advocacy should focus given the direction of the Trump Administration regarding education policy.
- LAUSD’s Director of Government Relations, Pedro Salcido, gave an overview of Governor Brown’s proposed budget for K-12 education.
- Linda Vasquez from the Campaign for College Opportunity outlined legislative priorities based on the Governor’s proposed budget for higher education.

Member Messages:
Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!

VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for $50 per week or $175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional $5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.
Education
The University of California could lose $9 billion used for research, healthcare and education if federal funds are cut by the new administration.