LAUSD Superintendent Shares Vision for the District at Leaders Forum

"Work remains so that every student in the Los Angeles Unified School District gets what they deserve. We need to ensure every school gets what they deserve."

- LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner

LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner poses with event sponsors and VICA Chair. From left to right: Lena Gonzalez (Microsoft), Paul Audley (FilmL.A.), Kellie Hawkins (England, Knabe & Allen), VICA Chair Lisa Gritzner (LG Strategies), Beutner, Robyn Hines (Microsoft) and LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin.

On Thursday, VICA members enjoyed breakfast at Sportsmen's Lodge with Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner. Beutner discussed a wide range of topics, including the integration of technology into school curricula, the district's budget, and the importance of transparency. He noted that "LAUSD means two things: the unified students and the unified community." During the Q&A segment, Beutner discussed the role of charter schools and the dedication of teachers. The superintendent said, "Traditional public schools and charter schools are working toward the same goal - to provide a good public education." He concluded by reiterating his commitment to creating a more sustainable model for the district: "We need to build a model with accountability and with transparency."

Thank you to the presenting sponsors for the event, Englander, Knabe & Allen, FilmL.A. Inc. and Microsoft.

Click here to view more pictures from Thursday's event!

Oppose Rent Control in Los Angeles County

On July 31, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors votes on a bill that favors rent control over tenants rights (Proposition 10), a bill that will eliminate the rights of tenants and property owners. VICA members urge you to oppose the rent control bill and to call your local representatives on this issue. For more information on how to oppose this bill, please visit our website.
Senior Project Manager of Homeless Strategies Visits VICA for Newsmaker Connection

Christina Miller joined VICA to discuss her work in alleviating the current homelessness crisis facing Los Angeles.

On Tuesday, VICA members heard from Christina Miller, Senior Project Manager of Homeless Strategies for the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti. Miller discussed her work in alleviating the current homelessness crisis facing Los Angeles. She spoke optimistically about the work her team is doing, and said, "We are heading in the right direction with unprecedented progress." Miller also answered questions from attendees, addressing issues such as safe parking programs that seek to shelter Los Angeles' 9,000 vehicle dwellers, as well as other initiatives currently in progress to ameliorate the crisis. "Our goal is to create more indoor spaces for people to go because, at the end of the day, we need to get people off the streets," Miller said. "We are working to do whatever we can to expedite these processes."

The event was presented by State Farm.

For more information, email Armando@vica.com.

On July 31, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will consider a draft interim rent hike freeze ordinance. VICA is unclear how this proposal is legal under the Costa-Hawkins Act. The stop-gap measure will cap rent hikes at 3 percent a year in incorporated areas of L.A. County, with "base rents" frozen at current levels. This draft rent control ordinance will be devastating to the rental housing market, especially as California is already being suffocated by the housing crisis. This ordinance would effectively kill the incentive to build more housing, cause landlords to neglect maintenance and repair and inflate prices for non rent-controlled units. Many cities have taken significant steps toward incentivizing affordable housing, and these programs should be given the opportunity to work rather than repealing settled law that balances the interests of renters and landlords.

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Local Officeholders Luncheon
Thursday, August 16, 2018
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City

Reserve your spot for one of VICA’s most popular events of the year! The Local Officeholders Luncheon provides members unparalleled access to the Valley’s elected officials and officials from other local governments.

Confirmed Speakers (as of 7/20/2018):

Jeffrey Prang
L.A. COUNTY Assessor

Mike Feuer
L.A. CITY Attorney

Ron Galperin
L.A. CITY Controller

Herb Wesson
L.A. CITY Council President

Bob Blumenfield
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Joe Buscaino
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Mitchell Englander
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Jose Huizar
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Paul Koretz
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Paul Krekorian
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Nury Martinez
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Mitch O’Farrell
L.A. CITY Councilmember

Hot Issues

Education
University of California regents unanimously voted to approve an $8.7-billion spending plan for the next academic year, which includes the first tuition decrease in nearly two decades. Months of lobbying for more state funding prevented a proposed 2.5 percent tuition hike, although...
The California Supreme Court removed from the November ballot a measure aimed at dividing California into three states. The court cited questions regarding the proposition's validity and the potential harm in permitting the measure to remain on the ballot as reasons for the decision.

Covered California expects to increase its health insurance premiums by an average of 8.7 percent in 2019, double what it would have been if Congress had not dropped the Affordable Care Act individual mandate.

Although a recent report shows that L.A.'s overall homeless population dipped slightly, the demographic of older adults shot up 22 percent to nearly 5,000 people. According to a report, L.A.'s housing crisis is increasingly driving people into homelessness for the first time at advanced ages.

Metro is partnering up with an on-demand taxi service for a pilot program that aims to fill a mobility gap in L.A. Starting this fall, New York-based transportation service Via Transportation Inc. will become available to passengers who can't afford ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft, and who live a good distance from bus and train stations.

In an effort to boost voter turnout, Governor Brown recently signed a bill requiring counties to prepay postage for mail-in ballots in California elections. The law will go into effect in 2019, and counties will be allowed to continue prepaying the postage for the rest of their mail-in ballots.

Click here to RSVP for VICA's Local Officeholders Luncheon!

Committee Reports

Government Affairs Committee (7/18)

- Edel Vizcarra from Los Angeles County's Public Works Department presented an update on the stormwater tax ballot measure which, if approved by voters, would impose a 2.5 cent per square foot parcel tax on impermeable surface within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.
- The committee recommended to support the Proposition 5: Property Tax Transfer, Proposition 4: Children's Hospital Bond Act of 2018 and the two charter amendments to change the date of City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District elections to be the same day as state elections.
- The committee recommended to oppose Proposition 6, which eliminate road repair and transportation funding by repealing the gas tax. They also recommended to oppose Proposition 7, which would repeal of the Daylight Saving Time Act in California.
counties will be allowed to file claims with the state seeking reimbursement of postage costs.

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.