VICA ENSURES THAT THE
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BUSINESS COMMUNITY
HAS A STRONG AND INFLUENTIAL VOICE

Annual Report 2017
As I come to the end of my two-year chairmanship of VICA, I reflect on some of the great strides the San Fernando Valley has taken. In 2016, VICA's biggest success was the passage of Measure M, the half-cent sales tax to fund transportation projects across Los Angeles County.

In 2017, we built on that success. VICA strongly supported the investment in road repairs made possible by reform of the gas tax and vehicle registration fees, and we will continue to advocate in support of infrastructure improvements which allow our economy to grow. We pushed for the acceleration of key projects such as upgrades to the Orange Line and the Sepulveda Transit Corridor, which were included in Metro’s initiative for accelerated project completion by the 2028 Olympics.

Speaking of which, 2017 saw Los Angeles winning the right to host 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. In the Valley Sports Park, I am proud that we will host three Olympic sports and two Paralympic sports, the first time the Games will be located in the Valley. VICA will build on our advocacy effort to bring those sports to the Sepulveda Basin and ensure that Valley residents, businesses, and youth benefit from this exciting opportunity.

In 2017, four of VICA’s top ten legislative priorities were related to addressing the housing crisis impacting our region’s economy. We successfully defeated one of the worst ideas I’ve seen in decades: had Measure S passed in March, a building moratorium in the City of Los Angeles would have caused an even bigger increase in homelessness and skyrocketing rents.

VICA worked closely with the City of Los Angeles’ Department of Planning as they allocated additional staffing to support housing development and updated the City’s Community Plans. VICA also made a huge push in the State Legislature, mobilizing our members and meeting with legislators in support of the package of housing bills which will help streamline housing development and provide relief for low-income families.

As I pass the gavel to our 2018 Chair, Lisa Gritzner (LG Strategies), I feel good about what VICA has achieved. VICA’s long history of advocating for the San Fernando Valley since 1949 has resulted in a vibrant, growing economy in our region. I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to the board, membership, and staff for making VICA the region’s most effective and respected business advocacy organization. I am proud to have served as your Chair, and I look forward to being part of VICA’s future success.
VICA PUSHED FOR A SENSIBLE CALIFORNIA HOUSING PACKAGE

At the end of the 2017 legislative session, VICA celebrated a huge victory with the passage of critical bills aimed to improve the supply and affordability of housing across the state. VICA was proud to have supported a number of key housing bills that will begin to effectively address the housing crisis facing the San Fernando Valley and all Californians. Bills such as SB 35, SB 167, and SB 540 helped streamline housing development while others, including SB 2 and AB 74, will assist families in need of affordable housing.

VICA WON WITH EXTENSION OF CAP-AND-TRADE PROGRAM

In July, VICA President Stuart Waldman attended Governor Brown’s cap-and-trade bill signing in San Francisco to celebrate the extension of California’s cap-and-trade program. The successful passage of Assembly Bill 398 (Garcia) will allow California businesses to continue to compete globally. California’s cap-and-trade program serves as a model for other states with strong and growing economies. VICA, along with other business groups across California, supported the cap-and-trade extension. In 2016, California passed SB 32, which requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The cap-and-trade extension is the most cost-effective way to meet those requirements.

VICA DEFEATED PROPOSAL FOR A SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

After numerous trips to Sacramento and voicing strong opposition, VICA celebrated the defeat of Senate Bill 562 (Lara), which proposed a government-run single-payer system. The bill lacked a funding mechanism and would have likely increased taxes and crippled our economy. In 1994 and 2004 California voters understood how this would change the way they receive healthcare coverage and the billions it would cost them and the state. VICA advocated in strong opposition of SB 562 and stood alongside businesses, patients, insurers, and employees as the bill died in the Assembly.

VICA SECURED FUNDING TO REBUILD CALIFORNIA’S INFRASTRUCTURE

VICA strongly supported and advocated for the passage of Senate Bill 1 (Beall), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, a comprehensive state funding package for transportation that commits new revenues for infrastructure improvements and investments across California. SB 1 will invest $5.7 billion over the next 10 years in the Greater Los Angeles region for road repairs, transit assistance, and active transportation projects. These new investments will bring about significant economic growth and development in the Valley and throughout California.

OLYMPICS

Los Angeles bid to host the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, VICA advocated to make sure that the Valley was included in the bid. VICA President Stuart Waldman sat on the LA24 Bid Committee and welcomed the plan for a Valley Sports Park in the Sepulveda Basin, which will host canoe slalom, shooting, and equestrian events. The park will include entertainment, dining, and retail options so that Valley residents and businesses will truly benefit from the Games.
STATE

In 2017, just under three-quarters of the bills VICA tracked on the governor’s desk were successful. This included bills that VICA-supported which were signed and VICA-opposed bills which were vetoed.

VICA tracked hundreds of bills in 2017. Here’s a look at some of VICA’s most important successes:

**SB 1 (Beall)**
VICA welcomed the passage of the Road and Repair and Accountability Act, which will commit additional funds to help address the state’s challenges in funding crucial maintenance and repairing core transportation infrastructure – state highways, local streets, roads and bridges.

**SB 35 (Wiener)**
Governor Brown signed a series of important housing bills that will begin to address the California housing crisis. SB 35 will streamline housing development for cities and counties that have not met their housing goals.

**SB 49 (de León)**
VICA fought hard to ensure this bill did not make it out of the Legislature, which would have required the state and local agencies to maintain environmental protection standards more stringent than federal standards.

**SB 100 (de León)**
VICA welcomed the defeat of this harmful energy bill that presented unaffordable mandates without cost containment mechanisms or off-ramps in case of an economic downturn or increase in ratepayers’ costs.

**SB 328 (Portantino)**
VICA was pleased that this proposal to ban schools from starting before 8:30 a.m. failed to pass the Legislature. Working parents will be relieved that local school districts will retain local control, rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all start time with limited evidence for any benefits.

**AB 74 (Chiu)**
As part of the housing package passed last year, VICA was pleased with the passage of this bill, which will help families gain access to affordable housing.

**AB 168 (de León)**
VICA welcomed the Governor’s signature on this bill, which allows Los Angeles to move forward with its bid to host the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**AB 398 (Gomez)**
This bill was significantly amended to remove an alarming portion which would have criminalized media companies for disseminating certain types of medical communication, regardless of whether it was in the public interest.

**AB 705 (Irwin)**
In an effort to improve community college completion rates, VICA supported this bill which would require community college districts to maximize the probability that a student will enter and complete transfer-level coursework in math and English within a one-year timeframe using multiple measures.
LOCAL

VICA successfully advocated at the local level on several important issues for our members.

Here are some of VICA’s successes at the Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and other local bodies:

**Los Angeles International Airport Landside Access Modernization Program Project**

VICA supported the Los Angeles City Council’s amendment of the LAX Specific Plan to allow the Landside Access Modernization Program, which will enhance multimodal access to the airport, relieve congestion, and improve air quality. This project will strengthen our region’s economic standing and promote business growth throughout Southern California.

**Metro Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit System Improvements**

VICA continued to advocate for enhanced mobility and connectivity in the San Fernando Valley. We are pleased that the Metro Board approved the Measure M-funded Orange Line Improvements, which seek to provide safe and cost-effective strategies to improve operating speeds, capacity and safety, while laying the groundwork for the bus system’s conversion to light rail.

**2028 Olympics**

VICA welcomed the Los Angeles City Council’s support for Los Angeles to host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Los Angeles and our entire region will reap economic and social benefits throughout the region with minimized risk.
In the 2017 local elections, voters elected new San Fernando Valley representatives to the Los Angeles City Council, the LAUSD Board of Education, and the Los Angeles Community College District, and decided the fate of three ballot measures. VICA was busy advocating to ensure candidates and voters were aware of the business community’s perspective on critical issues.

The successful defeat of Measure S, a two-year ban on development, was a major victory for businesses and communities across Los Angeles. VICA successfully advocated against this shortsighted measure, which would have significantly increased the cost of housing, cost Los Angeles over 12,000 jobs and reduced economic output by nearly $2 billion.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED INTO OFFICE IN 2017
- Congressman Jimmy Gomez
- Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo
- L.A. City Council Member Monica Rodriguez
- LAUSD Board Member Kelly Gonez
- LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin
- LACCD Board Member Gabriel Buelna
- LACCD Board Member Ernest Moreno

VICA’S 100% SUCCESS RATE ON STATE BALLOT MEASURES
VICA recommended positions on three local ballot measures and every one of them went the way VICA called for, including the defeat of Measure S. VICA celebrated the successful passage of Measure M, a common-sense cannabis regulation measure that helps bring the City of Los Angeles in line with state law. VICA also celebrated the passage of Measure H, which helps Los Angeles County address homelessness by funding wraparound services.
WHO MET WITH VICA

VICA Members and staff met with Fukushima Governor Masao Uchibori at the Japanese Consul in 2017.

FEDERAL OFFICEHOLDERS

Congressmembers
Xavier Becerra
Nanette Barragan
Jack Bergman
Tony Cardenas
Jimmy Gomez
Steve Knight
Kevin McCarthy
Nancy Pelosi
Brad Sherman
Eric Swalwell

Senator
Tammy Duckworth
Dianne Feinstein
Kamala Harris

STATE OFFICEHOLDERS

Governor
Jerry Brown

Controller
Betty Yee

State Treasurer
John Chiang

State Board of Equalization Members
Jerome Horton
Fiona Ma

Senate President
Pro Tempore
Kevin De León

State Senators
Ben Allen
Patricia Bates
Cathleen Galgiani
Bob Hertzberg
Ricardo Lara
Holly Mitchell
Mike Morrell
Anthony Portantino
Henry Stern
Scott Wiener
Scott Wilk

Assemblymembers
Speaker Anthony Rendon
Dante Acosta
Travis Allen
Raul Bocanegra
Ian Calderon
Matt Dababneh
Vince Fong
Jim Frazier
Laura Friedman
Mike Gipson
Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chris Holden
Jacqui Irwin
Reggie Jones-Sawyer
Tom Lackey
Marc Levine
Adrin Nazarian
Sharon Quirk-Silva
Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Miguel Santiago

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power General Manager David Wright.
WHO MET WITH VICA

United States Senator Tammy Duckworth with our Leaders Forum Presenting Sponsor Representatives from The Boeing Company.

LOCAL OFFICEHOLDERS

Los Angeles Mayor
Eric Garcetti

Los Angeles City Attorney
Mike Feuer

Los Angeles City Controller
Ron Galperin

Los Angeles City Councilmembers
President Herb Wesson
Bob Blumenfield
Mike Bonin
Joe Buscaino
Gil Cedillo
Mitchell Englander
Marqueece Harris Dawson
Jose Huizar
Paul Koretz
Paul Krekorian
Nury Martinez
Mitch O’Farrell
Curren Price
Monica Rodriguez
David Ryu

Los Angeles City Planning Director
Vince Bertoni

Los Angeles County Supervisors
Kathryn Barger
Janice Hahn
Sheila Kuehl

City of Agoura Hills
Mayor Pro Tem
William Koehler

City of Burbank Councilmembers
Sharon Springer
Jess Talamantes

City of Calabasas Councilmembers
Fred Gaines
David Shapiro

City of San Fernando
Councilmember
Joel Fajardo

City of Simi Valley Councilmember
Keith Mashburn

City of San Fernando Mayor
Sylvia Ballin

City of Santa Clarita Oaks Mayor
Cameron Smyth

L.A. Community College Members
President Sydney Kamlager
Gabriel Buelna
Mike Fong
Andra Hoffman
Steve Veres

L.A. Unified School District Board Members
Kelly Gonez
Nick Melvoin
Scott Schmerelson

LAUSD Superintendent
Vivian Ekchian

Metro Chief Planning Officer
Therese McMillan

LADWP General Manager
David Wright

LAWA Chief Development Officer
Bob Gilbert

German Consul General
Hans Jorg Neumann

Governor of Fukushima, Japan
Masao Uchibori

Japanese Consul General
Akira Chiba

Deputy Canadian Consul General
Gavin Nardoccio-Jones

Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian meets with VICA members at a VICA Newsmaker Connection.
VICA IN ACTION

VICA works with the region’s lawmakers and opinion leaders to improve the business climate and quality of life in the San Fernando Valley.

AVIATION
- Supported the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Landside Access Modernization Program, which will improve the airport experience for travelers, businesses, and residents
- Supported the LAX Terminals 2 and 3 Modernization Project, which will upgrade and connect the terminals

EDUCATION
- Stopped a harmful bill that would stifle innovation in education by limiting charter school authorization
- Opposed a one-size-fits-all bill to make the statewide school start time 8:30 a.m. for public middle and high schools, including charter schools

ENVIRONMENT
- Successfully opposed legislation that set an unaffordable mandate for 100 percent renewable electricity by 2040 without cost containment mechanisms
- Stopped legislation that would have prohibited state agencies environmental protection from being less stringent than federal guidelines
- Pushed for the South Coast Air Quality Management District to adopt a fiscally responsible Air Quality Management Plan which relies on incentives rather than expensive mandates and an overly regulative approach
- Advocated against an undemocratic bill that would redefine stormwater infrastructure as sewer services in order to ease property fee increases without voter approval
- Pushed for local agencies and governments to support the CA WaterFix, an important and cost-effective project that will ensure water security for decades


2017 VICA Staff
EMPLOYMENT
- Defeated attempt to grow County unions by effectively banning personal services contracts with private non-profits and small, minority- and women-owned businesses
- Stopped bill to prevent employers from hiring part-time workers and instead force them to offer more hours to part-time workers, even if the timing of shifts or geography make this impossible
- Prevented employers being subject to huge salary threshold increases for overtime-exempt employees, both at the federal and state level
- Pushed for ability to allow workers to work more flexibly during the holidays without incurring overtime costs
- Advocated for reform of the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), which exposes small and medium businesses to multi-million dollar settlements and legal fees for minor and unintentional labor code violations

ENTERTAINMENT
- Led the San Fernando Valley’s advocacy for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, securing the 2028 Games for Los Angeles and the Valley Sports Park for the Sepulveda Basin, with three Olympic events (canoe slalom, shooting, and equestrian) and two Paralympic events (shooting and equestrian).
- Successfully advocated for an increase in the number of permitted sit down restaurants at Sherman Oaks Fashion Square

HEALTHCARE
- Stopped the California Legislature from moving forward with a single-payer healthcare system without any plan to pay for it
- Defeated an attempt to reduce access to dialysis treatments for patients, which would have resulted in an increase of costs to California’s healthcare system

LAND USE
- Successfully opposed Measure S, which would have imposed a two-year ban on almost all residential and commercial development in the City of Los Angeles
- Led the advocacy effort for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to approve the FivePoint Holdings Newhall Ranch project, which will result in the development of thousands of homes in the Santa Clarita Valley
- Successfully supported legislation that will address the California housing crisis by streamlining environmental regulations and local planning processes for housing development
- Advocated strongly against the implementation of a Linkage Fee on new development in the City of Los Angeles, which would further drive up the cost of housing without making a real impact on the number of affordable housing units in the city
VICA IN ACTION

REGULATION
- Successfully advocated against the ban on single-use plastic bottle caps, when alternatives are not currently technically feasible and which had limited evidence that it would reduce litter
- Defeated bill which would have added warning labels on sugar-sweetened beverages, unfairly targeting one specific industry and product
- Stopped proposal to ban polystyrene food containers, which are often recyclable and which small restaurants rely upon as sanitary and cost-effective
- Opposed attempt to limit the ability of lenders to provide a variety of short-term credit options to borrowers in need
- Opposed bill to create a private right of action against general contractors for debts owed by subcontractors

TRANSPORTATION
- Provided the business perspective to shape Metro’s Measure M implementation guidelines
- Advocated for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project to be constructed as light rail transit with fourteen stations
- Ensured that Measure M local return funds won’t be misappropriated for politicians’ pet projects
- Encouraged the relocation of the Northridge Metrolink station to Reseda Blvd. to improve multimodal access and increase ridership
- Amended a state bill that would have unnecessarily prescribed the composition of the California Transportation Commission
- Ensured that a new state measure on electric vehicles will not penalize fuel consumers
IN 2017, VICA PLEDGED TO:

1. VICA pushed to reform and streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. VICA opposed any attempts to implement a building moratorium such as Measure S which will inevitably hamper critical development projects in Los Angeles.
3. VICA called for the reinstatement of the flexible work week that allows individual employees to request deviation from the 8-hour, five-day state mandate.
4. VICA led the effort for business tax reform in the City of Los Angeles, including implementation of the Business Tax Advisory Council’s recommended plan to halve rates within five years and eliminate the onerous tax altogether within 15 years.
5. VICA supported a 21st Century transportation system that successfully utilizes multiple modes of transportation for a seamless system.
6. VICA called on Congress to reauthorize the Build America Bonds program to stimulate greater investment in our transportation sector, facing a rapidly dissolving Highway Trust Fund.
7. VICA supported the installation of high-capacity Metro rails along major Valley corridors, including Van Nuys Boulevard and along Metro’s Orange Line.
8. VICA encouraged the allocation of additional staffing for the Los Angeles City Planning Department to expedite the review and permitting processes developers face.
9. VICA worked to ensure that the inclusion of an environmental justice component in the city’s General Plan will not hamper the ability to build much-needed housing in Los Angeles.
10. VICA supported the California WaterFix, a critical infrastructure project to provide reliable, clean and safe water for California.
NEW MEMBERS
Making VICA’s voice stronger every year!

- A2Z Health
- Adler Realty Investments
- Alstom Transportation
- American Airports Corporation
- Amgen
- Autism Movement Therapy Inc.
- Barlow Respiratory Hospital
- Bieber Lighting
- Blue Apron
- Boething Treeland Nursery Company
- Boston Private Bank & Trust
- Boys & Girls Club of America
- Buca Di Beppo
- Bunim/Murray Productions
- BYD America
- Carollo Engineers
- Coalition for Enhanced Marine Resources
- Coast to Coast Collective
- Cox, Castle & Nicholson
- Delta Airlines
- Express Employment Services
- Ferrovial Agroman West
- Fueling California
- Green Public Affairs & Campaigns
- Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital
- HKS Architects
- IMT Residential
- Irvine & Associates
- Jet Aviation- Van Nuys
- Katten Muchin Rosenman
- Langan Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc.
- LG Strategies
- Los Angeles Association of Health Underwriters
- Los Angeles Mission College
- Los Angeles Rams
- Meridian Consultants
- Metrolink/ Southern California Regional Rail Authority
- New Directions for Youth
- North Los Angeles County Regional Center
- Northridge Hospital Medical Center
- Pacifica Senior Living
- Pegasus Transit
- Pepperdine University
- Phillips Graduate University
- Priority Pak
- Quality CLHF Inc.
- Reason Foundation
- Rocca Development Group
- Shapell Properties
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Southern California Associates of Governments
- Sweet Lady Jane
- The Adult Skills Center
- The BuddyGuard Corp.
- Thor Trucks
- Timely Prefinished Steel Door Frames
- Toll Brothers
- UCLA Extension
- Valley Cultural Center
- Waste Management

*bold = bronze level or higher
VICA thanks the following members for their outstanding support in 2017

**PARTNERS + SPONSORS**

**PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE**

COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL Los Angeles Daily News

LADWP Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL The Garland
SoCalGas
WELLS FARGO

**PREMIER PARTNERS**

Albertsons Pavilions AT&T CHASE CSUN usbank

**PLATINUM MEMBERS**

AEROJET Rocketdyne airbnb Charter Communications Clear Channel Outdoor

FIVEPOINT Health Net KAISER PERMANENTE

CESAC Rams Metro

Microsoft PACFED Pacific Federal

PROVIDENCE Health & Services

pwc recycla Southwest WM

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL Excellence in Awards
PARTNERS + SPONSORS

GOLD MEMBERS
- California Apartment Association of Los Angeles
- California Lutheran University
- Cerrell Associates
- Clay Lacy Aviation
- FilmL.A., Inc.
- Hilton Universal City
- Ralphs Grocery Company
- Republic Services
- State Farm Insurance
- The Walt Disney Company

SILVER MEMBERS
- 21st Century Fox
- AEG
- Airtel Plaza Hotel & Conference Center
- American Chemistry Council & Plastic Food Service Packaging Group
- Amgen
- Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
- Bank of America/Merrill Lynch
- Bobrick Washroom Equipment, Inc.
- The Boeing Company
- BYD America
- California Resources Corporation
- Cedars-Sinai Health System
- Englander Knabe & Allen
- Farmers Insurance Group
- General Motors
- HNTB
- Kirsch, Kohn & Bridge LLP
- KP Public Affairs
- Latham & Watkins
- Leavitt Insurance Services of Los Angeles
- Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
- UCBA Trade Association
- University of Phoenix
- Van Nuys Airport
- Walmart
- Westfield Corporation, Inc

BRONZE MEMBERS
- Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac LLP
- Athens Services
- The Bel-Air
- Blue Apron
- Boething Treeland Nursery, Co.
- Business Life Magazine
- California Restaurant Association
- Chevron Products Company
- City of Hope
- Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
- Delta Air Lines
- DLA PIPER
- Greenland US Commercial Holding, Inc
- Harvard-Westlake School
- Homes 4 Families
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Katten Muchin Rosenman
- Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan
- Los Angeles Valley College
- Mayer Brown LLP
- Merlone Geier Management
- Metrolink/Southern California Regional Rail Authority
- New Horizons
- Northrop Grumman Corp., Navigation Systems Division
- OutFront Media
- Pacific Star Capital, LLC
- Parsons
- Sapphire Construction & Development
- Sheraton Universal Hotel
- SKANSKA
- Southland Regional Association of Realtors
- The Tech Consultants, LLC
- Tierra del Sol Foundation
- Toll Brothers
- Trammell Crow Company
- UCLA Governmental & Community Relations
- USI of Southern California Insurance Services, Inc.
- Verizon
- Vitello’s Restaurant
- Western Bagel Baking Corporation
- Woodbury University
- WSP USA
STATE OFFICEHOLDERS DINNER

February 10
PRESENTED BY: COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL AND KAISER PERMANENTE

Sixteen state elected officials joined more than 300 VICA members for VICA’s annual State Officeholders Dinner. The infamous Wheel of Questions determined what each officeholder was asked, and topics ranged from the California Film & TV Tax Credit to High-Speed Rail to Sacramento gossip.

VICA thanks the following state officeholders who attended:

Board of Equalization Members
- Jerome Horton
- Chair, Fiona Ma

State Senators
- Senate President Pro Tempore, Kevin de León
- Ben Allen
- Ed Hernandez
- Henry Stern

Assemblymembers
- Travis Allen
- Raul Bocanegra
- Matt Dababneh
- Laura Friedman
- Chris Holden
- Marc Levine
- Monique Limón
- Adrin Nazarian
- Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Miguel Santiago

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

June 8
PRESENTED BY: JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. AND VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

The San Fernando Valley Business Hall of Fame was created by VICA in 2008 to recognize significant contributions to the Valley community. Inductees include individuals, businesses and other community leaders that have been responsible for the continued success and economic vitality of the San Fernando Valley.

2017 INDUCTEES:
- Alpert Barr & Grant
- Los Angeles Jewish Home
- MGA Entertainment
- UltraGlas
- Bunim/Murray Productions

CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON

July 7
PRESENTED BY: AEROJET ROCKETDYNE, COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL AND WELLS FARGO

This year marked the fourth annual Congressional Luncheon, which featured a series of policy-related questions for members of Congress. Attendees had the opportunity to meet their representatives and discuss issues important to the business community.

VICA thanks the following members of Congress who attended:

Congressmembers
- Tony Cardenas
- Brad Sherman

Connecting members with candidates, business leaders and officeholders
LOCAL OFFICEHOLDERS LUNCHEON

August 17

PRESENTED BY:
LA DEPARTMENT OF WATER & POWER, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY, WALMART AND WELLS FARGO

More than 300 guests attended the event to mingle with local officials from Los Angeles County, the city of Los Angeles, surrounding cities, and local boards of education. The officials took questions about education, transportation and business development.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
County Assessor
- Jeffrey Prang

County Board of Supervisor
- Kathryn Barger

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
City Attorney
- Mike Feuer
City Controller
- Ron Galperin
Councilmembers
- Council President, Herb Wesson
- Bob Blumenfield
- José Huizar
- Nury Martinez
- Mitch O’Farrell
- David Ryu

CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
- William Koehler

CITY OF BURBANK
- Sharon Springer
- Jess Talamantes

CITY OF CALABASAS
- Fred Gaines
- David Shapiro

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
- Cameron Smyth

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY
- Keith Mashburn

L.A. COMMUNITY COLLEGE
District Trustees
- Gabriel Buelna
- Mike Fong
- Andra Hoffman
- Steve Veres
- Sydney Kamlager

L.A. UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Members
- Kelly Gonez
- Nick Melvoin
- Scott Schmerelson

BUSINESS FORECAST CONFERENCE

October 20

PRESENTED BY:
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY AND WELLS FARGO

Industry leaders and experts attended VICA’s 29th Annual Business Forecast Conference (BFC) on Friday, October 20, for an economic forecast breakfast, panels on a variety of topics impacting businesses, and a luncheon with Larry Freedman, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer of the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC).

The opening breakfast forecast, sponsored by Hilton Universal City and US Bank, was moderated by Patrick Nygren (Wells Fargo). Eugenio Aleman, (Wells Fargo) started the discussion by providing an overview of where the economy is going on a national level, and discussing the type of impact tax reform could have on the economy. Next, Jeffrey Kravetz (US Bank) discussed California, including job growth by industry sector. Fernando J. Guerra, Ph.D. (Loyola Marymount University) rounded out the discussion with his views of the Los Angeles economy, and how the outlook in the San Fernando Valley compares regionally.

Tourism:
Voyage to La-La-Land
MODERATED BY:
MARK DAVIS, HILTON UNIVERSAL CITY
- Paul Krekorian, Los Angeles City Councilmember
- Ranjan Goswami, Delta Air Lines
- Patti MacJennett, L.A. Tourism and Convention Board
- Dr. Sarah Fischbach, California Lutheran University
VICA EVENTS

Education: Learning the Ropes
MODERATED BY:
DIANNE HARRISON,
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
NORTHRIDGE
- Dr. Frances Gipson, LAUSD
- Adrian Wilson, Microsoft
- Dr. Paul Witman, California Lutheran University

Best Practices: Finding the Best Route
MODERATED BY:
MARK VETTER,
AEROJET ROCKETDYNE
- Cameron Smyth, Santa Clarita Mayor
- Scott Ochoa, Glendale City Manager
- Dr. Michael Shires, Pepperdine School of Public Policy
- Harlan Levy, McDonald’s USA

Bad Legislation: Getting off Track
MODERATED BY:
RUBEN GONZALEZ,
GONZALEZ STRATEGIC AFFAIRS
- Vince Fong, California Assembly member
- Dan Walters, CALmatters
- Susan Shelley, Los Angeles Daily News
- Marc Joffe, Reason Foundation

Housing: Breaking Ground
MODERATED BY:
JOSEPH BERNSTEIN, SAPPHIRE
- Jennifer Hernandez, Holland & Knight
- Megan Kirkeby, California Department of Housing and Community Development
- Dr. Nicholas Marantz, University of California, Irvine

Transportation: The Lost City of Angels
MODERATED BY:
DAVID WARNER, PARSONS
- Phil Washington, Metro
- George Minter, Southern California Gas Company
- Rebecca Schenker, BYD America
- Elissa Konove, Metrolink

Healthcare: Unearthing New Ways to Practice Medicine
MODERATED BY:
CAROL KIM, HEALTH NET
- Jeff Allport, Valley Presbyterian Hospital
- Dr. Erik Dutson, UCLA
- John Rott, Kaiser Permanente
- Dr. Brennan Spiegel, Cedars-Sinai Health System

Entertainment: Lights Camera (Phone), Action!
MODERATED BY:
SARAH WALSH, MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
- Michelle Kempner, Buzzfeed
- Amy Lemisch, California Film Commission
- Kevin James, City of Los Angeles
- Tom Lynch, Tom Lynch Company

Santa Clarita Mayor Cameron Smith on the Best Practices panel.
ANNUAL MEETING
December 8
PRESENTED BY:
The Boeing Company and San Fernando Valley Business Journal

VICA members and their guests came together to enjoy a year-end event at the Warner Center Marriott for VICA’s 68th Annual Meeting. During the Annual Meeting, VICA’s 2018 Board of Directors was sworn in. Each year, VICA recognizes members who have proven to be impressive leaders to both VICA and the community. The recipients of the 2017 honors were:

- President’s Award
  Recipient was Matt Swearman (Child360)
- Harmon Ballin Award
  Recipient was Ross Pendergraft (Leavitt Group)
- Robert E. Gibson Award
  Recipient was Bobrick Washroom Equipment

LEADERS FORUM

VICA’s Leaders Forums provide members the opportunity to hear from prominent public figures and ask questions. In 2017 VICA hosted three Leaders Forums, that featured David Wright, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, United States Senator (IL) Tammy Duckworth, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

VICA AFTER DARK

VICA After Darks are evening receptions that allow VICA members and guests the opportunity to hear local policy and legislative updates from a featured opinion leader in a casual setting. In 2017, VICA hosted five After Dark events featuring California Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra, LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson, Bob Gilbert with Los Angeles World Airports, L.A. Department of Planning Vince Bertoni and California State Senator Henry Stern.

NEWSMAKER CONNECTIONS

VICA’s Newsmaker Connections offer members an opportunity to address elected officials and public administrators. Attendees may ask questions about local public policy and topics most important to the business community and receive immediate responses. In 2017, VICA hosted three Newsmaker Connections which included a debate for Council District 7. VICA members also heard from Metro’s Chief Planning Officer, Therese McMillan and U.S. Congressman Eric Swalwell.
MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

VICA is frequently sought out to provide the business community’s perspective on current issues.

Los Angeles Times

LA POLITICIANS PROPOSE BANNING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DEVELOPERS

01/10/17 — A handful of Los Angeles lawmakers are calling for a ban on campaign donations from real estate developers, saying they want to counter the perception that money drives those decisions. Some business leaders questioned the narrow focus on developers. Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Assn., argued that other donors also have a stake in the city’s planning process. “If they’re going to ban contributions from developers, then they should ban them from labor unions too,” Waldman said.

Los Angeles Daily News

A FASTER METRO ORANGE LINE THROUGH THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY? IT’S ON TRACK

01/28/17 — Sweeping upgrades for the Orange Line, approved by the passage of the Measure M sales tax in November, include ways to speed up the nearly 15-mile bus rapid transit line from North Hollywood to Warner Center. Some key interim developments could begin running as early as December. “We’re extremely excited,” said Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, which helped officials zero in on $4 billion in upgrades for the transit measure, including the Orange Line boost. “We knew things would move when Measure M was passed; we didn’t think they were going to move this quickly,” Waldman said. “It’s going to speed things up, which is good. Makes for better commutes. And it makes the Orange Line capable of carrying more passengers.”

89.3 KPCC

PORTER RANCH RESIDENTS’ PROTEST SHUTS DOWN ALISO CANYON GAS FIELD MEETING

02/02/17 — Organized protests took over and ultimately shut down a public meeting that state energy officials had called to gather public comment about whether the Southern California Gas Company should be allowed to resume operations at the site of the nation’s worst natural gas leak. At least 75 members of the public lined up before two microphones to speak, but those favoring a reopening of the gas field were repeatedly booed by the crowd. “VICA supports the safe reopening of the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility,” Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, said to a chorus of boos and jeers. He added, “In a democracy, we let people speak whether you agree with them or not.” At that point, the moderator said the meeting had become unsafe and shut it down.

VICA members meet with California State Senator Henry Stern during a VICA Sacramento Advocacy Day.
MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Los Angeles Daily News

WHY DID LA VOTERS TAKE A WRECKING BALL TO MEASURE S?

03/08/17 — Some in the San Fernando Valley, where the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association had strongly backed the measure, disagreed with that assessment. Or that voters had rejected “pay-to-play” allegations of corruption. “Voters didn’t reject pay-to-play,” said Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association, which opposed Measure S. “Voters rejected NIMBYism. They are sick of angry, wealthy homeowners who don’t want people moving into their neighborhood, driving into their neighborhood, or parking in their neighborhood,” he added. “And I believe I just described the Sherman Oaks HOA.”

San Fernando Valley Business Journal

PAGA’S HEAVY PRICE

05/01/17 — Many business regulations include a “right to cure” clause, meaning that once a violation is identified, the employer has an opportunity to fix the problem before facing financial penalties. But “under PAGA there is no right to cure,” noted Stuart Waldman, president of VICA. “The PAGA law has created a Wild West atmosphere,” Waldman said. “Businesses may have minor incidental violations, like not having the proper wage and hour sign (posted), who can get substantially fined or in many cases end up settling with a former and disgruntled employee.”

San Fernando Valley Business Journal

LA TO HOST 2028 OLYMPICS

07/31/17 — “Today’s announcement is fantastic news for the San Fernando Valley and the rest of Los Angeles,” VICA President Stuart Waldman said in a statement. “The agreement demonstrates that Los Angeles can reap economic and social benefits throughout Los Angeles County with minimized risk. In the San Fernando Valley, we’re excited to host the canoe slalom, equestrian and shooting events which will bring the games to Valley residents.”

Law Weekly

WILL THERE BE A DRAMATIC SLOWDOWN IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF LA HOUSING?

08/11/17 — Proposition JJJ was sponsored by the L.A. County Federation of Labor, an umbrella group for unions in the county. Critics of JJJ said at the time that the measure was designed to force construction projects to hire union workers. They also said the new rules would stifle development. “The San Fernando Valley has projects that are no longer moving forward,” says Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry Commerce Association. “They just couldn’t pencil out anymore.”
MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

AMAZON’S SECOND HEADQUARTERS IN LOS ANGELES? HIGHLY UNLIKELY

09/14/17 — The city’s real issue is its business friendliness, or lack thereof. “Do I think that a major corporation like Amazon.com would come to a city where the gross receipts tax is the highest around,” says Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, “where you’re required to give your employees more sick days than the state, where the minimum wage is higher than anywhere else?” Long pause. “Yeah, sure,” he says, with apparent sarcasm.

WITH MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LA’S SIGHTS, A LINKAGE FEE ON DEVELOPERS TAKES ANOTHER STEP

10/10/17 — Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, said their group is “completely opposed” to the linkage fee and expressed skepticism that the plan would produce enough affordable housing to make it worth raising development costs. “It solves nothing, and it drives up the price of market rate housing to the point where builders will no longer build,” said Waldman, whose organization represents San Fernando Valley businesses. He pointed to estimates that say the fee could create an additional 1,500 affordable units annually, and said that this figure is dwarfed by the more than 500,000 affordable units the county estimates the area needs.

LA COUNTY EXPECTS 1 MILLION MORE RESIDENTS BY 2035. CAN HOUSING CATCH UP?

11/03/16 — “We’re in the middle of a crisis, and nobody is doing anything to help it,” Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, said in an interview after he read about the SCAG forecast. “They’re making it harder to build. “Between NIMBYs, and the process of going through [the] Planning [Department], going through the neighborhood councils, going through Building and Safety, going through hearing administrators, and the labor costs because of Measure JJJ, it’s made it unaffordable to build in Los Angeles anymore.” Waldman added: “I am frustrated that it takes study after study to tell people what common sense should tell them, that the more options you have, the cheaper it will be.”
VICA LEADERSHIP

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VICA Chairman Kevin Tamaki kicking off the program at a 2017 VICA After Dark.
VICA Board Member Doug Morton (Bobrick Washroom Equipment) hosted and presented at a VICA Manufacturing Committee meeting.

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STAFF UPDATES IN 2017

In March, David Gonzalez was hired as a third Legislative Affairs Manager, responsible for policy related to Transportation, Aviation, Education and Manufacturing. David was previously employed at the Office of LAUSD Board member Monica Ratliff as the Education Deputy.

In July, Armando Flores was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Legislative Affairs Manager, responsible for policy related to land use, health care and energy, environment and utilities.

In October, Catherine Mendoza was hired to fill the role of Office Manager. Her responsibilities include managing the President’s calendar, coordinating for meetings and events, and the go to person for our members. Cathy was previously employed at the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley as the Director of Administration.