Ideas Needed! Generating Revenue in the City of Los Angeles

"We have to make sure the most vulnerable are protected, but we also have to bring down costs for everyone else - I think we're doing that."


Do you have ideas for how the City of Los Angeles can generate revenue without harming businesses and employers? As business owners, VICA members consider innovative ways to grow their businesses every day. The business community is uniquely placed to suggest ways the city can generate revenue and balance their budget. Send your solutions to generate revenue to Elizabeth@vica.com or call 818.817.0545. No idea is too big or small!

Register Today for VICA After Dark!
Business Could Face Increasing Costs with Overtime Bill

VICA opposes Assembly Bill 1565 (Thurmond), which unnecessarily accelerates salary threshold increases for exempt employees in California, creating a $3,700 increase per salaried employee for small businesses. AB 1565 places the greatest burden on businesses that are struggling under recent labor and employment mandates. Currently, all exempt salaried employees in California must earn no less than two times the existing minimum wage, and satisfy the 'duties test' in order to be exempted from wage and hour mandates. As the minimum wage has risen, so has the minimum required salary. AB 1565 seeks to raise the salary threshold by requiring that all employers pay an exempt employee a minimum of $47,472. This increase will have a disparate impact on small businesses which are the least capable of absorbing the increased staffing costs.

Send a letter opposing AB 1565 by clicking here.
Monday, May 22 - Wednesday, May 24
Washington, DC
Click here to RSVP

International Trade Committee Meeting
Sponsored by WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff
Tuesday, May 23
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way,
Suite 170
Click here to RSVP

Aviation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 24
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Hosted by Aerolease Associates
7943 Woodley Ave,
Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Hot Issues
Transportation
Starting May 12, nearly two dozen airlines at LAX will change terminals. This move is part of a modernization effort that will include upgrades to two terminals over the next few years.

Healthcare
On Thursday, H.R. 1628 was passed with a tight vote of 217-213. This is the first major step towards reforming the Affordable Care Act. While the bill heads to the Senate for debate, the Congressional Budget Office has not released its analysis of the bill.

Homelessness
Los Angeles County has proposed spending more than $40 million of Measure H funds to prevent people from becoming homeless. The prevention strategy was tested in a pilot program last year and continues on a limited basis with a county grant from the Department of Public Social Services.

Housing
The Los Angeles City Budget relies on short-term rental taxes, which may be reduced if an ordinance restricting short-term rentals passes in the Los Angeles City Council.

Overreaching Bill Goes Beyond Original Intent of 'Ban the Box'

VICA opposes AB 1008 (McCarty), which would ban employers from asking questions related to an applicant's criminal history before a conditional offer of employment has been made. If an employer wishes to withdraw the conditional offer of employment due to the applicant's criminal history, they would be required to notify the applicant in writing with the basis for the disqualification, a copy of the conviction history report, examples of mitigation or rehabilitation that the applicant can provide, and information on the applicant's right to respond. The impacts of this bill far overreach the original intent of this so-called 'ban the box' legislation, which was to give applicants with criminal convictions a chance to demonstrate their qualifications prior to being asked about their criminal history. This bill goes significantly further than that and places onerous burdens on employers with legitimate reasons to not hire applicants with criminal convictions. It will be especially damaging for competitive industries to undergo multi-stage hiring processes for candidates who will then not be hired.

Send a letter opposing AB 1008 by clicking here.

Committee Report
Education Committee (05/04)
Sponsored by Woodbury University

- Vivian Ekchian, Superintendent of Local District Northwest, and Dr. Jack Bagwell, Administrator of Instruction for Local District Northeast, gave updates on the state of LAUSD schools in the Valley.
Education
U.S. News and World Report has released its 2017 rankings of America's public high schools. Among the top 20 LA Unified high schools on the list, 12 are charters.

2024 Olympics
The California Air Resources Board (CARB), California's clean air agency, issued a letter praising Los Angeles 2024's commitment to hosting the most sustainable Games in history. Los Angeles is bidding against Paris to host the 2024 summer Olympics.

- The committee recommended supporting AB 60, AB 1164, and AB 752, relating to affordable child care policies.
- The committee also recommended supporting AB 950 and AB 1224, which expand the authority of educational agencies to approve charter schools.
- The committee recommended to oppose SB 808, which would limit the authority of education agencies to approve charter schools, and AB 387, which would require healthcare interns be paid the minimum wage.

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.