

# UCAN | *United Chamber Advocacy Network*

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Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce | Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce

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## **Area chambers of commerce form new advocacy group to lobby Legislature**

By [Scott Rodd](#)  
– Staff Writer, Sacramento Business Journal  
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Over half a dozen area chambers of commerce have formed an advocacy group to lobby the California Legislature on issues affecting small businesses.

The United Chamber Advocacy Network will be made up of chambers of commerce from Roseville, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Folsom, El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County and Shingle Springs. Sacramento-based Advocacy and Management Group Inc. approached the local chambers with the idea of forming a unified group.

[David Butler](#), vice president at Advocacy and Management Group, will lead the organization's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol.

“This is an opportunity to serve their members on the issues that matter most to them,” Butler told the Business Journal. The “agenda that we have developed is more closely connected to their small business members.”

[Diann Rogers](#), CEO of the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce, said the chambers banded together to create a stronger voice in the State Capitol, that they would not have in their individual capacity.

“Part of the responsibility of a chamber is to be a watchdog on business (issues) for our members,” Rogers said. The advocacy network “is a great way to do that.”

The geographic areas that the advocacy group represents are, ostensibly, already represented by the Sacramento Metro Chamber, which has nearly 1,700 members in seven counties. But leaders of the local chambers of commerce that make up the United Chamber Advocacy Network say the needs of their members are not always met by the regional chamber organization.

“The Metro (Chamber) really is (focused on) Sacramento,” said [Debbie Manning](#), CEO of the [El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce](#). “The initiatives of Sacramento Metro Chamber—and the state chamber—don't always align with ours.”

Manning believes more can be done to promote the interests of small businesses, which she said can be overlooked by the regional organization.

The new advocacy group will focus on issues like regulatory reform, workers compensation and minimum wage requirements, she said.

[Robert Dugan](#), senior vice president of public policy and economic development at the Sacramento Metro Chamber, said he supports the creation of the new advocacy group.

“Anything that local chambers can do to add to their voice in the legislative process is a good thing,” he said.

Dugan said he doesn’t foresee the two groups being pitted against each other on important policy issues.

Additionally, Dugan and leaders of the local chambers both noted that the memberships of the Metro Chamber and the local chambers may not have significant overlap.

The United Chamber Advocacy Network is still completing its policy platform, but the organization has already weighed in on one bill this legislative session. The organization opposed Assembly Bill 5, authored by Assemblywoman [Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher](#) (D-San Diego), which would have required employers with 10 or more employees to offer additional work hours to existing employees before hiring additional workers.

The bill “hamstrings small business enterprises by mandating how an employer can manage his or her workforce,” a letter from the organization stated.

AB 5 was defeated in the Assembly Appropriations Committee last month.