

UCAN Launches with Legislators' Support

2018 Priority Legislation Announced

In late February, six state legislators representing much of the greater Sacramento area, gathered together with leaders from five local chamber organizations to formally launch UCAN - the United Chamber Advocacy Network. (click [here](#) for a list of all eight legislators who represent UCAN chambers).

UCAN chamber organizations – the Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Roseville Chambers of Commerce, and the El Dorado County Joint Chamber Commission – have joined forces to amplify their voices and enhance their effectiveness in advancing their members' priorities in an arena of critical importance to them – state legislation that impacts their business' bottom lines.

The legislators in attendance – representing both the Senate and Assembly, and Republicans and Democrats – ALL vocally supported the UCAN agenda and committed to engage with the UCAN chambers and our lobbyist, Dave Butler of Advocacy and Management Group.

“This is exactly the kind of business related advocacy that is often missing at the State Capitol,” noted Assemblyman Ken Cooley of Rancho Cordova. “We legislators really want to know what our constituents think about legislation and the UCAN network will help us do that in an effective and timely manner.”

Sen. Ted Gaines, noted that the UCAN Network would be providing a great service to all small businesses in California if its activities would include coordinating business owners' testimony at committee hearings in the State Capitol. “Everybody else is there - labor, environmental advocates, trial attorneys – but too often small business is not there and your perspective isn't considered by many of our colleagues.”

Frank Maita, Vice Chair of the Elk Grove Chamber's Government Relations Committee, observed, “This was a great experience. It was really refreshing to hear members from both sides of the political aisle express common support for small businesses and agree to support UCAN's efforts during the upcoming legislative session.”

UCAN 2018 Bill List Announced

In the several weeks following the UCAN launch event, the UCAN steering committee, comprised of the CEO and a volunteer leader from each chamber organization, have worked to develop a list of bills that are consistent with the priorities outlined in the 2018 UCAN Policy Agenda and identified by chamber members themselves in December:

- ✓ Reduce our tax burden
- ✓ Remove regulatory barriers
- ✓ Encourage employment
- ✓ Fix it first
- ✓ Diminish legal liability, and
- ✓ Improve California's business climate

“Top Tier” Legislative Priorities

Of those bills, the UCAN Steering Committee has identified six bills and “top tier” priorities:

AB 1298 (Skinner) re: employment information/felonies – Oppose

AB 2946 (Kalra) Extends time for employee complaint from 6 months to 3 years – Oppose

AB 2482 (Voepel) re: flexible work week – Support

AB 2596 (Cooley) re: statewide economic development strategy – Support

ACA 11 (Caballero) re: ¼ cent sales tax for affordable housing – Oppose

SB 993 (Hertzberg) re: sales tax on services – Oppose

The UCAN chambers and our lobbyist will work proactively with bill authors, our local legislators, partners organizations, and others to engage proactively on the “top tier” priority bills. On occasion, individual chamber members may be asked to write letters, send emails, or make phone calls at crucial times to advance or oppose a bill in committee or on the floor.

In addition, the UCAN chambers will send support and oppose letters on the full UCAN bill list and will inform our local legislators of our positions for them to take into consideration if and when they consider the bill in committee or on the floor.

A link to the most current UCAN Legislative Priorities can be found [here](#).

Statewide Coalitions

Finally, as a member of a network of state level business advocates, the UCAN chambers will have the opportunity to participate in state level coalitions of business interests supporting or opposing key legislation. As an example, the UCAN chambers have been invited to join the California Business Roundtable and others in opposing AB 1745, authored by Assemblyman Phil Ting of San Francisco, which would essentially outlaw all new cars with gasoline engines by 2040. The coalition has funded video spots for social media, one of which can be found [here](#).

Prop 47 Fix

UCAN also has the opportunity to engage in statewide ballot measures. At the recent launch event, Assemblyman Jim Cooper of Elk Grove invited the UCAN chambers to support a ballot measure that he and Sacramento County DA Anne Marie Schubert are leading that would reestablish several of the crimes that were downgraded as misdemeanors by the Prop 47 and Prop 57. As a result of downgrading these crimes, Cooper noted that crime has increased in local communities throughout the state, including serial shoplifting, which significantly impacts retail businesses. Asm. Cooper asked members of the UCAN chambers to support the measure, by helping gather signatures prior to the deadline of July 3. For more information, click [here](#).



Business leaders from the Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce pose with legislators, State Senator Sen. Jim Nielsen (front row, center) and Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (second row, second from the left) at the UCAN Launch event held at the offices of the California Dental Association in downtown Sacramento.