

**Agenda for
September 16, 2024 via Zoom**

1. **Opening Welcome**
2. **Approval of August Minutes:** Attached to Agenda package;
3. **Guest Speaker – Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, 40th district**
End of 2-year session, written and sponsored bills on governor’s desk, Q&A
(25-35 minutes)
4. **November Ballot: PLEASE** review the legislative handout listing County and City measures. The committee did not note positions, only a comment from the Chair. We will accept a motion to open any of them up for discussion and vote; (20-30 minutes including discussion/voting);
5. **Rep reports:** Monthly forum for representatives of elected offices from all levels of government
5. **New business:**
7. **Adjournment**

Next Government Affairs Meeting
October 21, 2024
Speaker and topic TBD, suggestions welcome

Legislation – September 2024

Los Angeles County and City Measures on the November Ballot

There are 3 County and 7 City measures appearing on the ballot. Text is what will appear on the ballot as copied from the County Registrar's website September 9th. GA chair comments in red italic. Below are the ones up for discussion and UCC vote if a motion is made to do so.

County

Admin G PROPOSED COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY CHARTER AMENDMENT: **Create** an elected **County Executive**; **Create** an independent **Ethics Commission**; establish a nonpartisan Legislative Analyst; increase the **Board of Supervisors from five to nine elected members**; require County departments to present annual budgets in public meetings; using existing funding sources with no additional taxes to implement, as detailed in the charter amendment ordinance, be adopted? **Supporters:** None submitted. **Opponents:** LA County Firefighters & Sheriffs; Community Coalition; LA County Supervisors Kathryn Barger & Holly J. Mitchell (*Will adding more bureaucracy and cost of government be a benefit to the County residents? 2 of the 5 Supervisors don't think so.*)

Tax A HOMELESSNESS SERVICES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE. To require accountability and results, create affordable housing, support home ownership, provide rental assistance, increase mental health and addiction treatment, reduce and prevent homelessness; and provide services for children, families, veterans, domestic violence survivors, seniors, and disabled people experiencing homelessness; shall the measure repealing the Measure H tax and replacing it with a **1/2 cent sales tax**, raising approximately \$1,076,076,350 annually until voters decide to end it, with new audits and oversight, be adopted? **Supporters:** Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter; Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles; LA Family Housing. **Opponents:** Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association; Mike Antonovich, L.A. County Supervisor (ret); Jack Humphreville
(*The City of LA recently agreed to pay \$38.2 million to US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to resolve allegations LA misused funds to build affordable housing. Let the County and City show us their programs are effective before providing more money to continue current policies and programs that so far are not working to any degree of effectiveness. Try again in 2 years.*)

Tax E CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND INFRASTRUCTURE ORDINANCE. Shall an ordinance ensuring local firefighter/paramedic emergency response, involving wildfires, house fires, heart attacks, strokes, and car accidents; to hire/train firefighters/paramedics, upgrade/replace aging firefighter safety equipment, fire engines, helicopters, facilities, lifesaving rescue tools, and 911 communications technology; by **levying 6 cents per square foot of certain parcel improvements**, providing \$152 million annually, limited to 2% annual adjustment, until ended by voters, exempting low-income seniors, with independent citizens oversight, be adopted? **Supporters:** Firefighter Alexis Kendricks; AirOps Paramedic Johnny Gray;

Assembly Mbr. Freddie Rodriguez; Firefighters IAFF Local 1014 **Opponents:** Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association; Mike Antonovich, L.A. County Supervisor (ret.); Jack Humphreville *(Is it really fair that this tax levy is only paid for by property owners when this public service is for everyone? There 194 different fees charged by the Fire Department some over \$1,100 dollars and that doesn't include ambulance rates which go up continually ((An emergency ambulance call is now \$2,223 and \$29 per mile)) Does the management of the department not consider the overall operational needs of the department when establishing and raising all these fees?)*

Los Angeles City

admin DD INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. CHARTER AMENDMENT DD. Shall the City Charter be amended to establish an **independent redistricting commission to redraw Council district** lines every ten years in the City of Los Angeles? Supporters: None submitted Opponents: None submitted *(The state redistricting 2 years ago, left us with areas with no elected state Senator that will be filled by this year's election – 2 areas here in the Valley. Are "independent" commissioners truly independent being appointed or elected by whom?)*

Tax US Local Public Schools Safety and Upgrades Measure: To update school facilities shall **Los Angeles Unified School District's measure be adopted authorizing \$9,000,000,000 in bonds** at legal rates, levying approximately 2.5¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation (generating \$456,123,000 annually) until approximately 2059, with audits/citizens' oversight? Supporters: Yolie Flores, Families in Schools; Gene Hale, LA AfAm Chamber; Dr. A. McQuarters; Charmaine Morales, RN; Ernesto Medrano, Bldg Trades Opponents: Howard Jarvis, Taxpayers Association; Mike Antonovich, L.A. County Supervisor (ret.); Jack Humphreville *Daily news editorial Sept 5th: Drop in enrollment from a high of over 700,000 students to now 400,000; school campuses being closed; put on the ballot to meet filing deadline with little aspects of where the money would go, there is still \$1.8 billion in unspent money from previous bond - NO on US*

State Bills for Governor's action by September 30th. August 31 was the last day of the 2-year legislative session. These are the bills that we have been noting in these handouts that made it to the governor's desk. Status as of 9-10-24 <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>

AB 98 – (Juan Carrilo) Sets new **restrictions for warehouses** and trucking routes that store and move cargo, goods and products. *(to Enrolling 8-31; on Newsom's desk)*

SB 961 -(Wiener) Requires all new **cars** starting in 2030 to be equipped **with speed-limiting technology** to alert drivers when they're going too fast. *(to Enrolling 8-31; on Newsom's desk)*

SB 969 – (Wiener) Creates zones where businesses can **sell alcohol on streets and sidewalks**. *(presented to Governor 9-03)*

AB 1775 – (Haney) Legalizes Amsterdam-style **cannabis cafes**. *(to Enrolling 8-28; on Newsom's desk 9-10)*

SB 1053 – (Blakespear) **Bans** any kind of **plastic grocery bags** at checkout. Customers would need to use either a reusable bag from home or a paper option provided at the point of sale. *(to Enrolling 8-30; on Newsom's desk 9-10)*

AB 1755 – (Kalra) For used car owners, shortens the length of time someone has to file a **lemon law lawsuit** and requires them to notify the manufacturer in writing about car problems before filing lawsuit for warranty violations. (to Enrolling 8-31; on Newsom's desk)

AB 52 - (Grayson) **Income tax credit**; Manufacturing equipment (to Enrolling 8-29; on Newsom's desk 9-10)

AB 1103 - (Menjivar) **Tenancy of commercial real properties**: agreements: operating costs. (to Enrolling 8-31; on Newsom's desk)

AB 2863 - (Schiavo) Requires that a consumer be able to cancel an automatically **renewed subscription** in the same manner that the consumer used to subscribe to the continuous service in the first place. (to Enrolling 8-28; on Newsom's desk 9-09)

AB 2424 - (Schiavo) This bill adds procedural **requirements to the foreclosure process**, intended to help a borrower find assistance in navigating the foreclosure process (presented to Governor 9-05)

AB 1840 – (Arambula) Allows **undocumented** people to apply for the state's first-time **home buyer's assistance**. VETOED by Newsome 9-6.

AB 2586 - (Juan Carrilo) **Requires** the University of California system to **hire undocumented immigrant** students who cannot get work permits. (presented to Governor 9-03)

SB 1174 – (Min) **Prohibits** local governments from **requiring voters to show ID** at polling places. (presented to Governor 9-03) *Schiavo no vote recorded Menjivar yes*

AB 2903 – (Hoover) Requires state-run **homelessness programs to annually report** cost and outcome data to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. (to Enrolling 8-31; on Newsom's desk)

AB 2499 - (Schiavo) Unlawful **employment practices: discrimination for time off**. Amends several provisions of existing law related to employee time off for jury duty, crime victims and witnesses, among other amendments. (Enrolled 8-28; on Newsom's desk 9-09);

SB 1193 -(Menjivar) This bill **prohibits the sale of leaded aviation gasoline**, phasing it out beginning January 1, 2026. Allows counties to opt-out. (ordered to Enrolling 8-29; on Newsom's desk 9-09)

AB 2943 - (Rivas-Zbur) This bill would make it a crime for any person to possess property that was acquired through **one or more acts of shoplifting** from a retail business, and the person has intent to sell, and the aggregate value of the possessed property exceeds \$950. (approved by governor on 8-16)



**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES AUGUST 19TH, 2024**

Present: Richard Fisk, Florine Goodman, Scott Krassner, Annie Nepomuceno, Jill Kline, Horace Heidt, David Honda, David Phelps, Dennis Zine, Diana Oganessian, Bonnie Bursk, Susie Herrera, Mirna Ezquivel, Nicole Richardson, Cindy Cleghorn, Kris Hough, James Roy, Jeanette Capaldi, Paula Cracium, Jheri Heetland, Jose Rodriguez, Tammy Scher, Budzichowski, Allen, Vickey Bourdas Martinez, Rolando Carranza, Rich Coffin, Matthew Jacobs, Sherry Keowen, Vahid Khorsand, Colleen King, Bonnie Lallouz, Ashleigh Larson, Shefail Mistry, Audrey Rolim, Tom Ross, Denny Schneider, David Bright, Hannah Lee, Michelle Vergara

Call to Order: Richard Fisk called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Minutes: July 15, 2024 - Richard asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Government Affairs Minutes from July 15, 2024, as there were none,

Minutes were approved by all as submitted

RICHARD FISK (GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CHAIR)

Richard introduced the guest speaker Granholm, who is no stranger to UCC Government Affairs.

GUEST SPEAKER BEN GRANHOLM regarding State Propositions on November Ballot, (SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE AT SWING STRATEGIES, SACRAMENTO)

Government Affairs Meeting Resolutions taken on [Ballot Propositions](#) after submission from the Chairs of the UCC Government Affairs Committee for consideration

2 \$10 billion to modernize K-12 schools and community colleges. **Oppose along with Proposition 37 which together would be issuing #25.5 billion in bonds.**

3 Removes outdated language in the state Constitution that still defines marriage as between a man and a woman and instead replace with a broad “right to marry”. **No position - not directly related to businesses.**

4 \$10 billion to help fund the response to climate-related disasters. **Opposed – along with Proposition 38 and 40 which together would be issuing \$20.5 billion in bonds (was not a unanimous vote by Committee)**

5 Lowers the required vote threshold to approve those measures from a two-thirds supermajority to 55%. **Oppose – it is already too easy to raise taxes with a single party majority.**

6 Bans involuntary servitude and ends mandatory work requirements for state prisoners. **The committee decided not to take a position as it was not business related. However, after a discussion by the Government Affairs Committee Members by a vote of 12 to 3 it was decided to OPPOSE THIS BILL!**

32 Increases California's hourly minimum wage from \$16 to \$18 and annually adjust it for inflation. **Opposed - we see what happened to the minimum wage increase for fast food workers.**

33 Would allow cities and counties to enact rent control repealing a 1995 law called the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act. **Oppose – This has been proposed many times with the same “NO” results.**

34 Requires that healthcare providers spend most of the revenue they get from Federal Prescription drug discount programs on direct patient care. **Oppose -Only applies to a small subset of providers. Do we need a law when those cases could be handled directly? This was not a unanimous vote by the Committee, but there was no change or discussion by the Government Affairs Committee Members.**

35 Impose harsher sentences for drug possession and retail theft by rolling back parts of Proposition 47. **Support – We can all see what is happening with retail theft. This might help reduce incidences.**

37 Authorize \$15.5 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernize projects for public schools and Community Colleges. **Oppose- along with Proposition 2 which together would be issuing \$25.5 billion in bonds.**

38 Issues \$5 billion in bonds to fund flood protection and climate-related projects. **Oppose – along with Proposition 4 and 40 which together would be issuing \$16 billion in bonds. Some previous water bond money has yet to be spent. This was not Committee unanimous and Shefali Mistry also noted her support for this Measure.**

39 Proposes \$1 billion in bonds to support the state's youth housing program. **Oppose – State should look for other existing avenues of revenue over the next 2 years.**

40 Proposes \$4.5 billion in bonds for flood protections. **Oppose along with Proposition 4 and 38 which together would be issuing \$16 billion in bonds. Some previous water bond money has yet to be spent. Not unanimous by committee as David Phelps supports this measure.**

41 Proposes issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund rental housing and homeownership programs for certain income thresholds. **Oppose along with Proposition 42 which together proposes issuing \$35 billion in bonds.**

42 Proposes \$25 billion to fund the state Family Home construction and Homeownership Act. Oppose along with Proposition 41 which together proposes issuing \$35 billion in bonds.

All final decisions regarding these measures will be sent to the UCC Chamber Member for their approval and/or comments to be returned within 3 days, when the positions will become the “position of the United Chambers”.

Ben mentioned that the push/ads for these and other measures will begin earnestly around Sept 1, 2024 and this year on the November Ballot, we have the most active ballot initiatives in history.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

VAHID KHORSAND (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS)

Vahid mentioned an upcoming event “Accessing L.A. that will be held on Sept 26 at Mission College. This event is to help businesses work with the city-on-City projects. He is looking to partner with UCC for this event! A Webinar will also be available on September 19th.

CONTACT: Vahid.khorsant@lacity.org

HANNAH LEE (CD12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN LEE) Hannah introduced herself as the replacement of Sharon Bronson from CD12. She had a few things to share, the permit program for Al Fresco dining for restaurants, was supposed to close on July 31, 2024, but has now been extended by Mayor Bass till December 31, 2024.

She also mentioned the Legacy Program which will allow for business owners, who have been in business for 20 years, even if that business had changed during the 20 years, can apply for that could be between \$10,000 to \$20,000. Application request will close in mid-September.

CONTACT: Hannah.Lee@lacity.org

JILL KLINE (CD3 COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD)

Jill mentioned the Business Accelerator Program which is a 6-week program offering free courses to aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. Topics include Intro to Business, Marketing, Business Law (8/29), Financial Management (9/5), Access to Capital ((9/12) and a Recognition Ceremony on (Sept 19). Courses are held at 19040 Vanowen S.t, Reseda from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You do not have to attend all courses, you can just sign up for the topics that will be best for you, but please pre-register.

CONTACT: jill.kline@lacity.org

KRIS HOUGH (SENATOR SCOTT WILKS) Kris reported that SB1233 is moving on and that a ‘Retail Theft Bill Package’, passed the floor last Thursday and is also moving on.

CONTACT: kris.hough@sen.ca.gov

JAMES ROY (STATE SENATOR MENJIVAR)

James reported that 14 bills are still alive, among them is SB1193 (Ban on leaded fuel for aircraft), and SB1024 was signed by Governor Newsom today, which is to help with identity theft security

CONTACT: james.roy@sen.ca.gov

DIANA OGANESYAN (SUPERVISOR BARGER)

Diana noted that Prop36 which was supported by Senator Barger was approved. When asked if this is the same bill that would increase the number of County Supervisors from 5 to 9, she stated she would have check as to whether that was still part of this bill.

She also mentioned a Program with the Hollywood Bowl, that would be selling tickets for certain day for \$1.00

CONTACT: doganesyan@bos.lacounty.gov

NICHOLE RICHARDSON (METRO WATER DISTRICT)

Nicole reported that a bill to assist those with low-income, with their water rate, did not pass.

A ZOOM meeting to share The Master Plan for Water Related Projects will be held on Sept 12th

CONTACT: nrichardson@mwdh2o.com

SHEFALI MISTRY (CSUN)

Shefali made a corrective announcement that she, not Ashleigh Larson, is the Head of Communication for CSUN.

Classes at CSUN WILL BEGIN ON August 27, 2024 and there will be major changes to the past "Traffic Patterns".

CONTACT: shefali.mistry@csun.edu

STEPHANIE MOLEN (L.A. METRO)

CONTACT: molens#metro.net

SUSIE HERRERA (CEDARS SINAI HOSPITAL)

CONTACT: Susie.herrera@cshs.org

MATT JACOBS (KAISER)

CONTACT: matthew.l.jacobs@kp.net

MARIAN JO CZ (UNITED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE)

Marian announced that plans are under way for the 18th Annual Mayor's Lunch to be held on Oct 30, 2024 at Skirball. Flyer will be out soon.

For more information contact: marian@unitedchambers.org,

DENNY SCHNEIDER (LARSAC)

Denny stated, that although he has his doubts, the "People Mover" for LAX is supposed to be completed in a year.

CONTACT; denny@welivefree.com

VICKIE BOURDAS MARTINEZ (SHERMAN OAKS ENCINO CHAMBER)

Vickie announced that plans are under way for the next Sherman Oaks Street Fair on Sunday, Oct 20. Vendor welcome! They expect 100,000 visitors.

CONTACT: vickie@shermanoakschamber.org

RICHARD FISK (GRANADA HILLS CHAMBER)

Richard mentioned that the Granada Hills Chamber be holding their Street Fair on Oct 19, 2024

Meeting adjourned 1:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Florine Goodman, UCC Secretary

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING – Monday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

GUEST SPEAKER ASSEMBLYMEMBER PILAR SCHIAVO