

**Agenda for
August 19, 2024 via Zoom**

1. **Opening Welcome**
2. **Approval of July Minutes:** Attached to Agenda package;
3. **Guest Speaker – Ben Granholm**, Senior Account Executive at Swing Strategies, Sacramento. State Propositions on November ballot.

PLEASE review the legislative handout listing the 16 State ballot propositions. The committee has noted recommendations for UCC formal positions. If there is a disagreement with the recommendations, bring it up for discussion and vote as the guest speaker goes through each one. *(35-45 minutes including discussion/voting);*

4. **Rep reports:** Request have been made: Voter ID in California; possible City/County measures on the ballot
5. **New business:**
7. **Adjournment**

Next Government Affairs Meeting
September 16, 2024
Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES JULY 15TH, 2024

Present: Allen Budzichowski, Richard Fisk, Florine Goodman, Scott Krassner, Annie Nepomuceno, Mike Stafford, Jill Kline, Horace Heidt, David Honda, David Phelps, Dennis Zine, Diana Oganessian, Bonnie Bursk, Susie Herrera, Mirna Ezquivel, Nicole Richardson, Cindy Cleghorn, Stephanie Molen, Jeanette Capaldi, Paula Cracium, Tammy Scher, Susie Herrera, Matthew Jacobs, Sherry Keowen, Colleen King, Ashleigh Larson, Connie Mapue, Shefali, Mistry, Audrey Rolim, Tom Ross, Gabriela Agarie, Lorena Bernal, David Bright, Cecilia Cabello, Barri Girvan, Jessica Padilla, Natalie Vartanian

Call to Order: Richard Fisk called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Minutes: June 17, 2024 - Richard asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Government Affairs Minutes from June 17, 2024, as there were none

Minutes were approved by all as submitted

RICHARD FISK (GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CHAIR)

Richard opened the meeting by having Tammy Scher introduce her recommendation for today's Guest Speaker, Paul Webster.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tammy Scher (President of Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber) introduced Paul Webster who is the Executive Director of the LA Alliance for Human Rights and Public Programs Expert!

PAUL WEBSTER

Paul Webster explained that in 2019 Businesses were tired of being ignored and being forced to endure so many difficult issues. The LA Alliance filed a lawsuit against the City and County of Los Angeles. Los Angeles was the pinnacle of homelessness but got the most Federal Assistance. However, this resulted in no help to the on-going homeless situation and its effect on the business and the communities, he stated.

The lawsuit involved the need to have the availability of beds; the County, once they had people into housing, their needs/treatments, were not really addressed and they were once again turned out back into the streets. Also, the reduction in the number of Encampments was part of this lawsuit.

The Court settled with the following course of action for the City and County.

1. CITY – Add an additional 12,015 beds - Actual addition as of 3/31/2024, 3,043 beds
2. COUNTY – Add 3,000 Treatment facilities – S/B completed by 2027 – plans unavailable.
3. COST – These settlement costs shall be paid and supported by the City and County
- 4.. Encampments should be reduced by 9,800 and currently have been reduced by 2,137

Council District 3 was asked to reduce their Encampments by 290 and as of March 31, 2024, have reduced eighty-five. Council District 12 was asked to reduce 325 of their Encampments and have reduced 144 of them.

The city did accept and agree to reduce the Homeless Encampments by June 2027. If these conditions are not fulfilled, it can go back to Court for further adjudication.

Questions regarding the impact long term of the Homeless, Health and other issues, as well as the City's hard fast restrictions for allowing construction to take place were asked.

Paul's recommendation was to stay connected with your Council Member and "DON'T GIVE UP" – Look for the city to do what has been directed by receivership.

CONTACT: LA-ALLIANCE.ORG

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

KRIS HOUGH (SENATOR SCOTT WILK)

Unable to attend but submitted a written report which is available at UCC.

CONTACT: kris.hough@sen.ca.gov

DAVID BRIGHT (WEST VALLEY REP FOR MAYOR BASS)

David introduced himself as the new West Valley Rep for Mayor Bass and looks forward to continued interaction with the United Chambers of Commerce as well as the entire West Valley.

CONTACT: David.Bright@lacity.org

JESSICA PADILLA (INTERN FOR MAYOR BASS)

Jessica mentioned that the recent homeless count indicated that the homeless numbers were down by 10.4%. Dennis Zine questioned that number as his information was it was down only 2.9%. Jessica said she will verify those stats and get back with the correct information.

Jessica stated that the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles will see events in the San Fernando Valley in the Sepulveda Basin. Our previous Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984, did not have any events in the San Fernando Valley.

Two programs will be presented for businesses: L.A. Optimize 2.0 (Creating a Website) and L.A. Reunite. More information as it becomes available.

JILL KLINE (CD3 COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD)

Jill reminded everyone of the weekly “Concerts in The Park,” each Sunday throughout the summer, at the Warner Center Park. These concerts are organized by the Valley Cultural Center and are free to the public.

Jill also mentioned a program, New Business Accelerator, which will begin on August 15, which will offer not only help to new businesses, but also help with the availability of Grants and much more. This is a 6-week program; however, you can check the schedule and attend parts of the program that will be of interest and help to you and your business

CONTACT: jill.kline@lacity.org

STEPHANIE MOLEN (L.A. METRO)

Stephanie reported that on June 27 a plan for the Public Safety Department in conjunction with the LAPD and the Sheriff’s Department was put in place. Although METRO cannot direct LAPD or the Sheriff’s operations, they are looking to create a much safer environment for riders as well as employees. Employee safety also includes “Bus Barriers” for Drivers which should be in place by the end of July 2024.

The North Hollywood Station security issues are being addressed as well as a “Life Program” to help those that cannot afford to pay for the Metro Service. They can get assistance.

Stephanie also reported that the Throne Pilot Program for ADA Compliant Bathroom facilities in Reseda is working out well at this point. Waiting for more information about this Pilot Program.

Questions were asked as to when help will come from the Safety Plan with the LAPD & Sheriff’s Departments, as well as what are the plans for safety during the 2028 Olympics.

Stephanie said she will bring that information to our next meeting.

CONTACT: molens@metro.net

NICHOL RICHARDSON (MWD)

Nichol reported that SB867 passed which is money for water projects. They did not get what they asked for, which was One Billion dollars, but were allotted \$500,000.

A plan to help lower income families with their water bill’s higher rate, has been implemented. Those with a higher level of income will pay a portion to cover this cost. Although those involved in paying the subsidized cost, were not given an option, they can “opt out” at any time.

Nichol also mentioned the job opportunities with MWD through an apprentice training program. The applications will be online by August 2, 2024, and must be completed and returned by August 27, 2024.

It was also announced that installing Artificial Turf is now being banned as it was found to be detrimental to the environment with chemicals seeping into the ground from the Artificial turf. **Rebates will no longer be given!**

CONTACT: nrichardson@mwdh20.com

BARRI WORTH GIRVAN (SUPERVISOR HORVATH)

Barri discussed the proposed bill to increase the current number of County Supervisors from 5 to 9. With the increase of the population and vast areas, many people are not able to get the help and support from the current 5 County Supervisors and their staff.

Our current system has been in effect since 1912, and no changes have been made. These are the changes that are suggested:

1. County Wide Elected Execs
2. Directors of Budget
3. All legislation publicly posted in 5 days
4. Independent Ethics Committee
5. Authorize Supervision of Elections
6. Government Tax Force
7. Chart to review structure
8. Annual Budgets
9. Only use existing County Funds for funding – no new tax

On July 9th, the Board passed this ordinance – July 23rd next reading – July 30th, third reading and if passed by August 9th, it will be on the November Ballot.

CONTACT: bgirvan@bos.lacounty.org

NATALIE VARTANIAN (SUPERVISOR BARGER)

Natalie shared that “more is not necessarily better” but does want the Ethics Committee and supports the fact that this will be the “Voters” decision.

Questions were raised about the cost of this increase to the County Board of Supervisors resulting in salaries, office space increased staffing being needed. “Do we really need more Government” was the question asked.

CONTACT: navartanian@.lacounty.gov

CECILIA CABELLO (SUPERVISOR HORVATH)

Cecilia will get more information on the actual projected costs to implement these idea/changes!

DISCUSSION: About equal amounts of opinions for and against the expansion of the LACounty Board. There will be 2 more Board meetings, with requests to hear more from the public before the August 4th deadline to have the motion passed to be put on the November ballot.

DAVID PHELPS (GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CO-CHAIR)

David reported on PAGA REFORM Legislation, which would put limits on lawsuits regarding small businesses as well as a reform for employees and employers. The report is on-line for all to review.

Shifali Mistry (CSUN)

Shifali introduced Ashleigh Larson, the new head of Community Relations for CSUN. With Ashleigh now on board, they look forward to being more involved with not only United Chambers of Commerce, but the Community in general.

As it is summer, there are few programs or activities to report on currently.

MARIAN JO CZ (UNITED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE)

No report

Meeting adjourned 1:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Florine Goodman, UCC Secretary

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING – Monday, AUGUST 19, 2024

Legislation – August 2024

State Propositions on the November Ballot

The Government Affairs Committee is submitting positions on these propositions. Any objections, should be brought up for discussion for reconsideration and possible vote at the meeting. Generally opposing all bond issues as it increases property taxes and should remind the legislators to be better stewards of our tax dollars. The State was claiming a \$95 billion budget surplus and in 18 months turned into an estimated \$30-50+ billion deficit. These proposed state bonds add up to \$82 billion. We have yet to see what the County and City are proposing that will add to our tax burden.

- 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 woman and instead replace it with a broad “right to marry. *No position - not directly related to business*
- 4** \$10 billion to help fund the response to climate-related disasters. *Oppose- along with Proposition 38 and 40 which together would be issuing \$20.5 billion in bonds (not committee unanimous)*
- 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 end mandatory work requirements for state prisoners. *No position - not directly related to business*
- 32** Increases California’s hourly minimum wage from \$16 to \$18 and annually adjust it for inflation. *Oppose – we see what has 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 results - No*
- 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? (not committee unanimous)*
- 35** Would provide permanent funding for Medi-Cal. Right now, a tax on managed health insurance plans that funds the program is set to expire in 2026. *Oppose – State should look for other existing avenues of revenue over the next 2 years.*
- 36** 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 the incidences*
- 37** Authorizes \$15.5 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization projects for public schools and community colleges. *Oppose- along with Proposition 2 which together would be issuing \$25.5 billion in bonds*

38 Issues \$6 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. (not committee unanimous)*

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 committee unanimous)*

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

State Legislation

August 16 is the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills. August 19th is floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules committees. August 31 is the last day for bills to pass in each house that will be sent to the governor. The description of the bills listed below are brief and meant to describe the primary objective. Complete state legislative, including specific bill information can be found at: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>

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. *(referred to APPR suspense file on Aug 8);*

SB 1193 (Menjivar) This bill **prohibits the sale of leaded aviation gasoline**, phasing it out beginning January 1, 2026. Allows counties to opt-out. *(Introduced Feb 14; amended 4-11,5-16,6-19,6-27; sent back to Appropriations committee 7-3; 3rd reading Aug 14)*

ACA 16 (Bryan) Amends the California Constitution to declare that the **people shall have a right to clean air and water** and a healthy environment *(Introduced Jan 25, amended 6-06; asm 3rd reading 8-14)*

SB 1327 (Glacier) This bill Enacts the **Data Mitigation Fee Law**, which imposes a data extraction mitigation fee on persons engaged in data extraction transactions, commencing in an unspecified taxable year for news media entities that pay wages for current or newly employed journalists. *(Introduced Feb 16, amended 8-12; referred to Rev & Tax comm 8-12)*

SB 1446 (Smallwood-Cuevas) This bill would **prohibit a grocery establishment** or a retail drug establishment from **providing a self-service checkout** option for customers unless specified conditions are satisfied. Would require the establishment to conduct a specific assessment study before implementing the technology and include the input from employees at least 60 days before drafting the study. *(Introduced Feb 16, 2024; amended 3-20; set for hearing 4-17; suspense file 8-7)*

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. (Introduced 2-15, passed and sent to governo4 on 8-12)

AB 2374 (Haney) Revises the Displaced Janitor Opportunity Act (“Act”) to apply to contractors employing one or more janitors, **increase the employee retention period from 60 to 90 days**, and provide that the successor contractor shall maintain the same work schedules and pay the same wages and benefits as were provided by the prior contractor. (Introduced Feb 12, referred to comm 4-4; suspense file 5-1; Ref to comm 6-05; re-referred to appr comm 7-2; referred to APPR suspense file on Aug 5)

AB 1043 (Essayli) This bill, among other provisions, would **prohibit** a person from contacting, soliciting, or initiating communication with an owner to **claim the surplus funds** from a foreclosure sale of the owner’s residence before 90 days after the trustee’s deed has been required. (Last year’s bill, motion to reconsider 5-13; asm motion to reconsider 8-14)