

## Successes help employers, jobs and the economy

### CAPITOL WATCHDOG

In a normal year, CalChamber tracks more than 3,000 legislative proposals on behalf of member businesses..

### IMPACT CALIFORNIA

By speaking out, employers can make a difference. See hot issues at [www.impact-california.com](http://www.impact-california.com).

### ABOUT US

CalChamber is the largest broad-based business advocate, working at the state and federal levels to influence government actions affecting all California business. As a not-for-profit, we leverage our front-line knowledge of laws and regulations to provide affordable and easy-to-use compliance products and services.

# 2020 Major Victories

## California Promise: Opportunity for All

The California Chamber of Commerce is the voice of California businesses of all sizes, expert at promoting pro-job policies and advising employers on the practical impact of state laws and regulations in the workplace. In a normal year, we track more than 3,000 legislative proposals, speaking up when a bill will hurt employers and the economy, and working to win support for legislation that will help the jobs climate. Policymakers listen to CalChamber policy advocates, knowing that we represent nearly 14,000 member businesses that together employ a fourth of the state's private workforce and reflect the diversity of the California business community.

Strengthening our message are the thousands of individuals who use our web-based center, [www.impact-california.com](http://www.impact-california.com), to express their views to their elected representatives. Each year, website visitors use the center to send some 200,000 letters about state, federal and international issues affecting business operations.

Read on to learn how CalChamber advocacy in 2020 helped employers. See the **Advocacy Return on Investment** sheet for estimates of employer savings on some of these victories.

## Stopping All But 1 Job Killer Bill

CalChamber policy advocates, backed by other business groups, pro-jobs legislators and the Governor's veto stopped all but one of the 19 job killer bills identified this year from becoming law as originally proposed. Below is a sampling of job killers stopped or amended before they passed the Legislature. More information at [www.calchamber.com/jobkillers](http://www.calchamber.com/jobkillers).

- **New leave mandates.** Stopped expansion of leaves of absence opening new avenues for litigation against employers (AB 2999, AB 2992, AB 3216).
- **Tax increases.** Prevented retroactive personal income tax increase and a headcount tax on certain employers (AB 1253, AB 398).
- **Higher energy costs.** Defeated proposal that in effect drives oil and gas production out of the state, leading to increased energy costs for all Californians and greater reliance on supplies from foreign sources (AB 345).
- **Onerous burdens on lenders.** Defeated proposal imposing obligation on financial lenders to carry home, mobile home and auto loans for extended periods without receiving payments from borrowers (AB 2501).
- **Shifting COVID-19 economic fallout onto rental property owners.** Blocked mandate for rental property owners to forgo collecting rent for extensive time with no financial assistance for landlords unable to meet their financial obligations (AB 1436).

## Defeating Largest Tax Hike in State History

Co-led bipartisan coalition, including local chambers of commerce, that convinced voters to reject the split roll property tax initiative (Proposition 15).

## Averting Costly Litigation

Stopped expansion of reasons to file lawsuits under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) including in connection with warehouse distribution centers and garment manufacturers (AB 3056, SB 1399).

## Helping Businesses Make Sense of the Flood of COVID-19 Information

Distributed updates on the numerous federal, state and local pronouncements on pandemic-related relief and requirements via all communication channels and presented the feeds from all in one web location (*Advocacy website, HRWatchdog and Capitol Insider blogs, The Workplace podcast, HRCalifornia Extra, CalChamber Alert* – [www.calchamber.com/coronavirus](http://www.calchamber.com/coronavirus)).



### **Stopping Statewide Expansion of Rent Control**

Supported voter rejection of initiative to expand the ability of local governments to place rent controls on residential properties (Proposition 21).

### **Providing Workers with Flexibility to Support Their Families**

Backed voter approval of initiative clarifying employment classification rules for app-based drivers allowing workers who want independence, flexibility and income opportunities to choose to work for themselves (Proposition 22).

### **Protecting Legitimate Uses of Technology**

Stopped overbroad prohibitions on contact tracing data, technologies, innovation, and limits on free trials and auto renewal offers (AB 660, AB 1782, AB 2811).

### **Supporting Solvency of Unemployment Insurance System**

Secured removal of calculations adding to insolvency of unemployment insurance system (AB 1731).

### **Keeping Lid on Energy Costs**

Prevented energy rate increase due to creation of fund for nonutility wildfire, water infrastructure and other programs. (AB 1659).

### **Sidelining Costly Consumer Product Mandates**

Stopped unrealistic packaging/recycling mandates and secured withdrawal of a state agency's costly changes to the Proposition 65 safe harbor warning for consumer products (SB 54/AB 1080, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment).

### **Easing Some Burdens on Small Business**

Secured hiring tax credit for certain small employers and ability for struggling businesses to exclude from state income taxes the amount of Paycheck Protection Program loans provided under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and loan forgiveness when the funds are used for certain purposes (SB 1447, AB 1577).

### **Strengthening Relations with Important Trading Partners**

- Presented a virtual gathering allowing Governor Gavin Newsom and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis to speak to and answer questions from the California consular corps and foreign economic partners—120 attendees representing nearly 60 countries.
- Published and shared observations by representatives of California trade and investment partners around the globe on their relations with the state, the impact of the pandemic and the trade outlook in their regions.

### **Opening New Markets for California Businesses**

Part of coalition supporting modernized U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement opening new markets for California products and services.