

California Legislature

New Faces, New Opportunities and Planning for Next Election

The critically important role of candidate recruitment was thrust under a luminous spotlight in the California 2022 midterm elections. Freshly drawn legislative and congressional boundaries drafted by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission met up with term limit-imposed legislative vacancies to serve up an unprecedented number of open seats across the Golden State. In the California Capitol on Monday, December 5, 2022, 80 members of the Assembly and 40 members of the Senate took their oath of office. Of these 120 newly sworn-in legislators, close to one-third are serving their first term in either the Senate or Assembly.

Had the California Chamber of Commerce not had in place a time-honored and robust process for candidate recruitment, many of the newly minted legislators would potentially be unknown to us and our members in the broader business community. Fortunately, that was not the case due in large part to our local chamber network plus our policy and public affairs units, which participated in candidate interviews and vetting as well as helping to marshal the campaign funds needed to support the candidates' legislative campaigns.

The 2022 election results had been barely certified and CalChamber's planning for the 2024 election cycle had begun. For the 2024 legislative elections, there are two key imperatives that are front and center of our planning. First, 2024 is a presidential election year and California's primary election will move up three months from June to March. Second, term limits will again trigger at least 20 open seats — nine Assembly and 11 Senate — with more vacancies expected. The early



primary date forces candidates to accelerate their campaign timetables as filing for the 2024 election will open in October 2023. By then we will be far down the road regarding our interview and vetting processes.

CALCHAMBER, LOCAL CHAMBER INVOLVEMENT

Many times, the CalChamber's introduction to a first-time legislative hopeful comes to us via our local chamber network. This incredibly unique and valuable resource provides us with on-the-ground intelligence about the quality of potential candidates and their willingness to work with the business community.

By being equipped with this information in an open legislative district, the CalChamber is in position to make the preliminary judgment on whether to support a candidate. Our local chambers are important partners in this process.

Creating A More Affordable California

2023 Business Issues and Legislative Guide

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www.calchamber.com/businessissues
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TRACK RECORD

Open legislative districts present the CalChamber with several new opportunities to recruit and elect business-friendly candidates from both political parties. It is through the political process that we can best affect policy outcomes by selecting and electing business-friendly candidates willing to stand with the employer community to defeat job killing legislative proposals. The CalChamber consistently has maintained a better than 90% kill rate on bills given the job killer tag.

Our success is attributable to our track record of electing legislators willing to stand up to the public unions and other liberal interests, and to defeat bills that will be harmful to the California economy.

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Although not a political action committee, the Candidate Recruitment and Development Program provides the resources necessary to build a bench of electable, pro-jobs candidates for state legislative and local office. The CalChamber partners with our local chamber network, as well as state and local member businesses, to ensure the recruitment efforts are bipartisan and locally driven.

The primary component of this program is to identify potential candidates and put them on the path to elective office. The secondary component is training and developing candidates for their positions. The program has successfully recruited numerous local candidates who have won election to state legislative seats.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PACS)

The CalChamber's Political Action Network includes three political entities:

- **ChamberPAC** is a bipartisan political action committee that makes direct contributions to incumbent office holders and select candidates who promote and vote for an agenda of private sector job creation. Contributions to this committee are limited to \$9,100 per year, person, organization or political action committee.

- **JobsPAC** is an independent expenditure committee, meaning it speaks directly to voters on behalf of the business community to elect pro-jobs candidates. Co-chaired by the CalChamber and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association, JobsPAC may accept contributions in unlimited amounts.

- **CalBusPAC** is a CalChamber committee that is formed to primarily support or oppose ballot measures having an impact on the state's business climate. CalBusPAC may accept contributions in unlimited amounts.

CALCHAMBER POSITION

California's business community is under constant pressure due to the disproportionate influence that special interest and government employee organizations have on the legislative and regulatory process. CalChamber is committed to standing up for and speaking out on behalf of the state's employer community through political action, our advocacy network, and constant and direct contact with elected officials.



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