



Legislative Platform

PURPOSE

The Legislative Platform provides a framework for the Carson Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Program. Adopted annually, the Chamber's Legislative Platform serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives that provide direction for Chamber Staff throughout the year. The Legislative Platform is an embodiment of the Board of Directors' Goals and is the foundation of a strategic and focused advocacy strategy. Below are the Guiding Principles and Policy Statements that will allow Chamber staff to address legislative and regulatory issues in a timely manner, without precluding the consideration of additional legislative and budget issues that may arise during the legislative session.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Carson Chamber of Commerce advocates for policies that encourage job growth, promote a business-friendly environment in California, and improve the quality of life for the Carson Community. The chamber retains the option to withhold support for lobbyist initiatives, even if they are in line with the legislative platform.

POLICY STATEMENTS

JOB CREATION, BUSINESS FRIENDLINESS, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Carson Chamber Supports:

1. Public policies that assist with business retention and private investment.
2. Projects and legislation that foster job creation and economic growth.
3. Policies and programs that improve the image of California as a place to do business.
4. The expedition of the state regulatory and local permitting review processes for businesses and new construction projects.
5. Funding and programs to retain and assist businesses with their regulatory, permitting, taxation, compensation, or workplace safety issues.
6. A state requirement for a cost/benefit analysis to be completed for every rule, regulation, tax or fee before it is implemented.
7. The minimization of frivolous litigation through limited punitive damages and the increased use of mediation or arbitration to resolve disputes.
8. Flexibility in implementing regulations so business productivity is not hindered.
9. Tax relief and resources to help small businesses manage inflation and rising costs. Programs to promote access to mentorship and financial support aimed at economic resilience and post-COVID recovery.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

10. Legislation, regulations and policies that will create a competitive disadvantage for South Bay businesses and harm the business climate of the state.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Carson Chamber Supports:

1. Expediting the entitlement and permit approval processes in municipal and county governments.
2. Re-establishing the authority of local government to use tax increment financing to fund public infrastructure projects and greater flexibility in the creation and use of Infrastructure Finance Districts.
3. State matching funds for Small Business Development Centers and federal funding to support the Small Business Administration.
4. Funding for clean-up of contaminated sites when the beneficial owner cannot be identified or no longer exists.
5. International, statewide, regional, and local efforts to attract, retain, and provide resources for current and future commercial and industrial business.
6. Policies and programs that encourage working with other cities, counties, and government agencies to jointly leverage resources and assets to create and strengthen economic clusters within the region.
7. Economic development initiatives that preserve and enhance a positive business climate and maintain and grow the business tax base.
8. Efforts to allow cities to recapture the true values of redevelopment and successor agency funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. Legislation that increases the availability of, and funding for, water conservation, water reuse technologies, water recycling, local water storage, storm water, and other water supply technologies.
2. Monitoring the development of a state framework for long term water conservation measures and advocating for a science-based approach to indoor water use standards.
3. Modernization of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to streamline the approval process and reduce frivolous, predatory litigation that does not pertain to environmental protection.
4. Allowing businesses to use the monetary value of purchased carbon offset credits, which they do not plan to use but cannot sell, to their future permitting fees. This will allow businesses to get value for the money they invested in credits while not increasing carbon emissions.
5. State and federal air quality and other environmental regulations that are technologically feasible, cost-effective, and implemented only after a thorough economic impact analysis has been completed.
6. Efforts committed to optimizing the environmental review processes to achieve more efficient and effective outcomes while safeguarding against misuse or abuse.
7. Legislation and funding that assist cities and local businesses with state mandated organics recycling requirements.

GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. Local government action, rather than the imposition of state, federal or regional mandates upon local governments, as well as federal mandates placed on the state.
2. Maximum flexibility for local government in contracting and contract negotiations.
3. Efforts to provide local legislative bodies with additional flexibility regarding remote meetings and Ralph M. Brown Act requirements.
4. Legislation that preserves the ability of local governments to determine the appropriate type of election system for their jurisdiction.
5. Efforts by the State to increase funding into the California State Controller's State Mandated Programs reimbursement program.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

6. Legislation and unfunded mandates imposing impractical requirements on records collection and retention.
7. Policies that would increase the voter threshold for local revenue measures or would increase the potential for litigation over local taxes and fees.
8. Legislation that would lessen the ability of local governments to enforce contractual language agreed to and contained within existing franchise documents.

HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. Funding for homelessness and mental health services, the construction of transitional housing and mental health facilities, and prioritization of local and regional collaborations delivering outreach, engagement, and clinical services.
2. Legislation that requires counties to partner with cities when receiving a direct allocation of homeless funds and has a regional focus.
3. Funding sources to develop local Homelessness/Mental Health Plans.

HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND LAND USE

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. Housing policies that maintain local control and allow local governments to make decisions on local zoning and density requirements.
2. Legislation that preserves local flexibility in the adoption and implementation of health and safety standards contained in the building codes.
3. Housing measures that promote the development and enhancement of safe and affordable housing and accessible housing within the City for all economic segments of the population, while still retaining local control.
4. Changes to RHNA methodology that is flexible and considers the demographics, geography, land use patterns, socio-economic makeup of the community, job growth and housing needs so the difference of each community is carefully considered.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

5. Additional affordable housing production mandates unless funding is appropriated to finance the mandate.
6. Legislation that prohibits the imposition of parking minimums.
7. Legislation that further expands the applicability of ministerially streamlined developments within the City that are not consistent with the General Plan.
8. Existing zoning, particularly in commercial areas, can enhance property values by attracting businesses and creating vibrant economic environments. Sudden changes through re-zoning can reduce property values and deter new investment. The Carson Chamber opposes efforts that would use re-zoning to adversely impact the operations of existing local businesses.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. Legislation that provides for greater penalties associated with organized retail theft operations.
2. Local control of emergency medical services and ambulance service, including pre-hospital care and transport.
3. Legislation that provides funding for programs that are critical to Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

4. Legislation that would interfere with the ability of law enforcement to remove individuals, either in person or in a vehicle, from public facilities, property, or streets.
5. Legislative attempts at early release of incarcerated prisoners and measures that would further de-criminalize non-violent offenses.

TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. Working with regional partners—governmental, private, and nonprofit—to identify and pursue funding for projects improving infrastructure within the City.
2. Legislation that protects local government authority over telecommunications facilities placed within public right-of-ways to include the aesthetics of equipment installed by companies or contractors.
3. Efforts that streamline funding between the state, federal, and local governments that help reduce the amount of time and resources it takes to fund and complete transportation projects.
4. Legislation for funding opportunities to expand local infrastructure for electronic vehicle charging stations.
5. Support infrastructure and transportation projects that improve goods delivery and trade efficiency
6. Policies for equitable access to high-speed internet for improved connectivity across sectors, including business, education, and community.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

7. Legislation that conditions a city's share of transportation funding on housing-related goals.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) is a regional economic and talent development engine for the City of Carson and the South Bay region, producing an educated workforce that strengthens local industries towards advancing a global economy. Supporting initiatives that position and support the only four-year public institution in Carson and in the South Bay, CSUDH, to fulfill its mission and objectives for the betterment of workforce readiness & development, locally, statewide, and nationally.
2. Funding and expansion of local Career Pathway programs that provide focused curriculum, essential people skills and work-based learning experiences for specific high-growth career tracks.
3. Funding for local Workforce Development Boards and other adult career training institutions such as Adult Schools and ROPs that can effectively help students expand their skills and find employment.
4. Programs that provide ongoing professional and technical training for teachers as well as performance evaluation and compensation incentives to reward and encourage quality teaching.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

5. Actions that would disproportionately reduce funding for the state's education system.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. A balanced approach to labor costs, ensuring fair treatment of employees while maintaining business viability. Encourage equitable labor practices that adapt to evolving economic conditions.

2. Reforms to reduce frivolous lawsuits that burden employers and public agencies, promoting a fair legal environment for business operations.
3. Workers' Compensation reform that balances disability benefits with reasonable employer liability while discouraging fraud, dishonesty, and abuse of the legal system.
4. Support the continued enforceability of arbitration agreements within employment contracts as a means to promote fairness, efficiency, and stability in the workplace.
5. Legislation that grants businesses the independent option to contest workers' compensation claims when their insurer declines to do so.
6. Legislative reform that provides clear and consistent guidance on travel-time compensation to ensure fair and practical application for both employers and employees.
7. Legislative reform that enacts a determination threshold by which a workplace is determined to be the primary cause of an injury before claims are compensable.
8. Legislative reforms to restore the ability to lawfully operate as an independent contractor while reasonably addressing concerns about worker protections and benefits. Clear, consistent standards that respect diverse work arrangements are essential to preserving economic opportunity and innovation in California's evolving workforce.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

9. Card-check unionization which removes the option of the private ballot for employees.

TAXATION AND BUDGETARY POLICY

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. A change in the initiative process requiring all ballot initiatives to identify funding.
2. Full implementation and ongoing deposits into the state's rainy day fund.
3. Simplification of state and federal tax codes.
4. A tax structure that lowers the financial burden on businesses, fostering economic recovery and growth without disadvantaging small enterprises.
5. Sustainable pension systems for public employees to enable municipal governments, school districts, special districts and the State of California to meet their long-term retirement obligations.

The Carson Chamber opposes:

6. Split Roll Property Taxes, changes to Proposition 13 protections for commercial property, especially in any consideration of enacting split roll property taxes.

WATER AND ENERGY

The Carson Chamber supports:

1. The implementation of sound plans, strategies, programs and projects that ensure a reliable, high quality and affordable water supply for the South Bay.
2. The effective implementation of the California Water Fix.
3. Policies that keep energy costs affordable in order to protect jobs and the economy.
4. Funding to research and develop a statewide energy strategy plan that would streamline regulatory oversight, eliminate rules duplication and encourage a variety of electrical generation and energy production methods.
5. A diverse energy portfolio consisting of oil & gas, natural gas, electricity, wind, solar and other energy sources for the State of CA.

ENTERTAINMENT & TOURISM

The Carson Chamber Supports:

1. Incentives and programs to keep filming within California.
2. Legislation that preserves and enhances tools, incentives, and programs used by state and local governments to promote filming.
3. Investments in transportation networks, public facilities, and visitor-friendly infrastructure—including signage, public spaces, parking, sidewalks, and transit—that directly impact the ability to attract and serve tourists.
4. Increased funding for city and state marketing campaigns to promote Carson as a visitor destination.
5. Incentives to encourage events, conventions, and festivals that bring visitors to Carson.
6. Streamlined permitting processes for events, festivals, and attraction development.
7. Incentives or flexible zoning policies that make it easier for businesses to host visitors and grow the tourism sector.
8. Flexible regulatory approaches that allow the tourism industry to adapt to changing market demands.
9. Development of lodging options, including hotels and motels, to support visitor growth.
10. Investments in beautification of public areas, parks, and cultural amenities to improve the visitor experience.

The Carson Chamber Opposes:

11. Regulations that limit advertising or marketing of local attractions.
12. Restrictions that create barriers to new event planning.
13. Excessive fees or “bed tax” increases that discourage hotel stays or tourism spending.