

CalChamber Committees

The California Chamber of Commerce maintains policy committees that draft and review policy and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on a range of issues, including education, labor and employment law, health care and tax policy. In addition, the CalChamber establishes ad hoc committees as the need arises to address other policy issues. Committees range in size from eight to 100 members and meet between two and four times a year (or, as needed) at locations throughout California or via telephone conference calls. The committee chairs generally are members of the CalChamber Board of Directors and work closely with the CalChamber's public policy team members, permitting the CalChamber to act quickly as issues emerge. Membership in committees (other than those whose membership is by appointment) is open to managers, technicians and/or policy experts with member companies. To get involved, submit the online form at www.calchamber.com/getinvolved.

Policy Committees

Climate Change

Goal: Monitor implementation of AB 32 climate change legislation and its impact on California businesses, including Air Resources Board activities; risk management and corporate strategies to help lessen the financial burden of climate change mitigation efforts; and national/global efforts that could help California businesses grow and promote their technologies/services elsewhere. (Must be CalChamber Board member to join.)

Staff: Amisha Patel
amisha.patel@calchamber.com

Education

Goal: Foster greater business involvement to improve both teacher and student performance, and administrative accountability in schools throughout California. (Membership by appointment.)

Contact: Marc Burgat
marc.burgat@calchamber.com

Health Care Policy

Goal: Promote a sound and affordable health care system. Work to contain costs and avoid unnecessary and expensive regulatory controls, including mandates.

Staff: Marti Fisher
marti.fisher@calchamber.com

Labor and Employment

Goal: Protect employers' rights to organize, direct and manage their companies' employees in an efficient, safe and productive manner.

Staff: Marti Fisher
marti.fisher@calchamber.com

Legal Reform and Protection

Goal: Seek comprehensive tort reform that will prevent lawsuit abuse, halt runaway liability risk and promote greater fairness, efficiency and economy in the civil justice system.

Staff: Kyla Christoffersen
kyla.christoffersen@calchamber.com

Small Business

Goal: Represent the small business viewpoint on priority legislation in cooperation with other standing committees of the California Chamber. Promote legislative action on key issues through the grass-roots network of local chambers and small businesses.

Staff: Marti Fisher
marti.fisher@calchamber.com
Robert Callahan
robert.callahan@calchamber.com

Taxation

Goal: Monitor legislation and regulatory activity to ensure that California tax laws are fair and can be administered easily. Review state spending plans to make certain that economy and efficiency are the primary goals of government.

Staff: Kyla Christoffersen
kyla.christoffersen@calchamber.com

Tourism

Goal: Encourage increased travel to California by fostering investment in advertising and improvements to tourism infrastructure, considering the important role of tourism in the state's economy and plans for economic recovery. (Membership by appointment.)

Staff: Marc Burgat
marc.burgat@calchamber.com

Transportation and Infrastructure

Goal: Develop and maintain a statewide transportation network that is adequate for the needs of business, agriculture and individual citizens.

Staff: Robert Callahan
robert.callahan@calchamber.com

Water Resources

Goal: Encourage responsible water quality goals and water development policies to meet the increasing demand for reliable water supplies. (Membership by appointment.)

Staff: Valerie Nera
valerie.nera@calchamber.com

Workers' Compensation

Goal: Promote legislative, judicial and regulatory actions that maintain an efficient workers' compensation system that provides adequate worker benefits while protecting the competitive position of California employers.

Staff: Jason Schmelzer
jason.schmelzer@calchamber.com

Ad Hoc Committees

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Goal: Provide agricultural employers with a conduit for communicating with lawmakers and advocating environmentally sound development and use of agricultural and natural resources in a manner that provides optimum economic benefits while protecting property rights.

Staff: Valerie Nera
valerie.nera@calchamber.com

Energy and Telecommunications

Goal: Recommend policies on issues concerning utilities and commerce, including electricity, telecommunications, commercial transactions, corporate governance, economic stimulus and development.

Staff: Amisha Patel
amisha.patel@calchamber.com
 Marc Burgat
marc.burgat@calchamber.com

Environmental Regulation

Goal: Oversee issues related to air quality and hazardous and solid waste, and recommend policies that meet the mutual objectives of protecting human health and the environment, while conserving the financial resources of business to the extent possible.

Staff: Jason Schmelzer
jason.schmelzer@calchamber.com

Immigration

Goal: Recommend policies on issues concerning immigration.

Staff: Jeanne Cain
jeanne.cain@calchamber.com

Public Policy

Goal: Ensure that annual policy committee agendas presented to the Board of Directors effectively address business community issues at the state, federal and/or international level; evaluate evolving issues on a timely basis and subsequently assign issues to an existing policy committee or a new ad hoc task force for action; and provide oversight and direction on efforts to increase member participation in the policy committee process.

Staff: Marc Burgat
marc.burgat@calchamber.com

Task Forces

AB 32 Technical Task Force

Goal: Provide expertise (including cost analysis) on impact of climate change regulations on business operations; brainstorm ideas for altering machinery/operations; discuss and outline a plan for a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases. (Open to policy-oriented members.)

Staff: Amisha Patel
amisha.patel@calchamber.com

Special Committees

Public Affairs Council

Goal: Advise CalChamber on key political issues affecting the business community.

Staff: Rob Lapsley
rob.lapsley@calchamber.com

California Chamber Fundraising Committee

Goal: Provide guidance and assistance to the CalChamber in its political fundraising efforts. (Must be a member of the CalChamber Board of Directors to join.)

Staff: Rob Lapsley
rob.lapsley@calchamber.com

Council for International Trade

Goal: Support expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

Staff: Susanne Stirling
susanne.stirling@calchamber.com

Economic Advisory Council

Goal: Provide quarterly forecasts of the California economy and coordinate special economic studies. Council members include business economists from a variety of industries and from government.

Staff: Dave Kilby
dave.kilby@calchamber.com

Local Chamber Advisory Council

Goal: Share ideas and improve communications with local chambers of commerce. Provide feedback on legislative priorities, special programs and services.

Staff: Steve Snyder
steve.snyder@calchamber.com

Political Action Committees

The California Chamber of Commerce has established two political action committees (PAC) to help focus business efforts to provide financial support to pro-jobs candidates or issues campaigns.

CalChamberPAC

Goal: Provide financial support to business-friendly incumbent legislators and candidates for state legislative and local office.

Staff: Rob Lapsley
rob.lapsley@calchamber.com

CalBusPAC

Goal: Provide funding to help qualify, support and/or oppose statewide ballot initiatives.

Staff: Rob Lapsley
rob.lapsley@calchamber.com