

Electing Bipartisan Pro-Jobs Candidates More Crucial than Ever in Rebuilding California's Economy

CalChamber Political Action Network

Every day, state and local public policymakers make critically important public policy decisions that have a direct impact on California's economy.

Through its partnership with the 15,000-plus CalChamber members, local chambers of commerce, business associations and coalitions, one of the CalChamber's highest priorities is to invest in the recruitment and education of bipartisan business-friendly, pro-jobs public policymakers at all levels of government who will support policies to improve California's economy.

While the CalChamber's public policy advocacy team aggressively ensures that policymakers understand the critical issues having an impact on the business community, the CalChamber's political action network works to identify and elect bipartisan pro-jobs legislators. This political effort is based around the Candidate Recruitment and Development Fund, CalChamberPAC, JobsPAC and CalBusPAC.

Candidate Recruitment

● Candidate Recruitment and Development Program.

Although not a political action committee, the Candidate Recruitment and Development Program provides the necessary resources to build a bench of electable, pro-jobs candidates for state legislative and local office. The CalChamber has partnered with its 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 a career path to higher 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

Two campaign committees are set up to fund the election of candidates with a pro-jobs perspective:

● **CalChamberPAC** is a bipartisan political action committee that is the foundation of supporting pro-jobs incumbent legislators and candidates by making contributions directly to their campaigns. By pooling the resources of like-minded employers across the state, CalChamberPAC is able to maximize every dollar it takes in. In the 2008 primary, CalChamberPAC succeeded in electing five pro-job Democrat candidates to office. In the general election, more than 20 CalChamberPAC-supported legislators were elected. Contributions to this committee are limited to \$6,500 per year, person, organization or political action committee.

● **JobsPAC** is an independent expenditure committee,

meaning it directly runs campaigns to elect pro-jobs candidates. This committee is co-chaired by CalChamber and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. Contributions are not limited under current campaign finance law. JobsPAC spent almost \$3 million in 2008 to help elect Democrat and Republican business-friendly legislators.

One campaign committee is set up to support or oppose state ballot initiatives affecting California's business climate:

● **CalBusPAC** is a CalChamber committee that is formed primarily to support or oppose state initiatives as they impact the state's business climate. In 2008, CalBusPAC was a major contributor to Proposition 11, an initiative to reform how the boundaries of legislative districts are drawn. Much activity is anticipated in 2010; 93 initiatives have been filed, including many anti-business proposals, such as variations on a split roll property tax, repealing tax incentives for businesses to hire California employees and invest in property here, and eliminating carryback of net operating losses.

Reasons for Position

By identifying, educating and electing pro-jobs candidates to local and state office, the business community will ensure it has business-friendly representation at all levels of government, as well as a future bench of candidates for higher office. Given the state's chronic immense budget deficit and the upcoming election for Governor in 2010, our success in these efforts is absolutely critical to help California maintain a competitive business climate.



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